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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014 VOLUME 87 ISSUE 1

MLK commemorated at JJC

Congressman Bill Foster, D-11, leads students through the campus on Jan. 22 in a Freedom March to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. See page 6 for stories on the march and on the history of MLK Day.

Photo by Travis Olson

City Center Campus faces budget concerns

BY RICHARD MASKA

Co-Editor

City Center Campus faces budget concerns

While construction on exterior of the JJC City Center Campus is all but complete, the college is facing some uncertainty as to where the remaining funds needed to complete interior of the $58 million building will come from.

In budgeting for the building, the college earmarked $25.5 million in state promised dollars via the Illinois capital budget fund as a means to complete the project.

Although completion of the City Center is the number one priority out of the 31 community college construction and renovation projects recommended by the Illinois Board of Higher Education to the capital budget bill, there is no certainty that the college will receive these funds as the latest capital bill expires June 30, 2014.

Currently, college leaders have been working on a contingency plan in case the state dollars do not come. In the meantime, they will have to wait for Gov. Pat Quinn's budget address on Feb 29 to find out if the college is likely to receive the funds through the capital projects bill.

State Sen. Pat McGuire (D-43) and Rep. Larry Walsh (D-86), both of Joliet, have been actively campaigning to acquire these funds for JJC.

"Rep. Walsh and I understand how important it (the City Center Campus) is to JJC students, and towards the vitality of the Joliet area," McGuire said.

The City Center Campus will house various programs such as the JJC Department of Adult Education and Literacy, GED preparation, career and vocational counseling, as well as other workplace programs designed to help veterans, returning adults and younger students.

The Culinary Arts program, which is accredited by the American Culinary Federation, will also be housed at the Campus Center.

McGuire said that he will continue working with members from both parties to pass the bill.

"Rep. Walsh and I will fight to keep JJC number one for funding the next capital bill," he said.

Capital bills are a state funded resource which can be used for infrastructure projects, education and energy programs. Capital bills differ from other state programs because they do not draw their revenue from the state income tax, rather they are funded by increases in license plates fees, raises to tobacco taxes and other "sin taxes."

This can be problematic for legislatures who want to gain revenue, but do not want to increase fees at the expense of

See Center page 7

Medical marijuana in Joliet

BY IVAN MORALES

Staff Writer

On Jan. 7 the Joliet City Council voted to adopt an ordinance amending the city's current zoning regulations regarding the cultivation and dispensing of medical cannabis in compliance with a new state law.

The Compassionnte Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act went into effect in Illinois on Jan. 1. The law now legalizes the cultivation, transportation, sale, possession and the use of medical cannabis statewide.

Ahead of the enacting, a Joliet City Council memo from the office of the city manager James Hock, dated Dec. 31, 2013, made mention of the new law conceivably in preparation for requests to site dispensaries and cultivation centers within the city of Joliet.

Subsequently, the measure comes as the memo states "to allow medical cannabis dispensaries in the . . . zoning districts as special uses only."

Among the provisions of the new ordinance, the regulations pertaining to cannabis dispensaries include that a dispensary must be at least 1000 feet from schools, day care facilities or other dispensaries.

They may not be in a house, condo or apartment building. They may not be located in a physician's office. They can only be open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., any day of the week. They must have appropriate security. Also, they must not allow consumption of cannabis on-site.

In regard to the provisions pertaining to cannabis cultivation centers, they are

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EDITORIAL

Better warning would be nice with tech rollouts

For the start of the 2014 spring semester, JJC opted to change its student printing system from using the familiar pre-paid Equitrac cards, to a newer system that requires students to scan their JJC ID on a release station in order to upload the documents they wish to print.

The new printing stations will be implemented in each of the campus labs and the library.

The prices for printing have not changed at $10 cents per page, $20 cents for double sided pages, and $25 cents for color.

The new system allows students the option to pay with cash at the printing station for each print, as well as using their credit or debit cards to fund an online account.

A wireless feature that allows one to print through a tablet or laptop is also being added.

However the rollout has not been without its problems.

"When they first installed it, there were some kinks and IT problems that they needed to fix," said Heather Prieboy, a library clerk who has been with JJC for 20 years.

Furthermore the system has been marred by difficulties such as slow log-in times, release stations that freeze and problems linking student accounts to their ID cards.

Worst of all, according to employees at the library, the system simply, "Doesn't always log-in," or "Doesn't always work."

The resulting frustration that students have had has been palpable: after having trouble getting her document to print, one exasperated student proclaimed, "I don't have time for this," and stormed out of the library.

"A couple of students say it's a more complex technology," said Prieboy, "I just say we're getting away from E-Cards and that it's the latest technology."

That latest technology has come at a price, "Students are having trouble understanding how to associate their ID card with their account," said one librarian whose name is withheld.

"I think it's a little confusing, but students are catching on pretty quickly."

The library added that, "The school could have done a better job providing us formal training on the new system, but we caught on, and it wasn't too difficult."

Kemesha Franklin navigates the unfamiliar printing system.
Photo by Alex Forgue

This sentiment is shared by David Thomas, a student clerk assigned to assist people having trouble with the new print solution.

"Students have trouble logging in the first time, but after the first time, most students figure it out."

Thomas did add that the system is better overall.

While students have been catching on, it is due in large part from the assistance from librarians who have had to spend an inordinate amount of time explaining how the new system works to students virtually every day since the roll-out.

The fact that a student worker has been assigned to the library print room during busy times illustrates the extent of the measures the school has needed to take in order to make the transition smoother.

This is hardly a back-breaking issue, but one cannot help but be annoyed by the continuous onslaught of new technology brought on simply for the sake of getting new technology.

In the end, it is one more adjustment students will be forced to grin and bear through, similar to any other hurdle the school gives us.

We're not anti-technology. That would be silly. But we would hope that if any new tech is rolled out in the future that the college would better prepare students and employees before the rollout.

BLAZER STAFF

Richard Maska
Co-Editor

Alex Forgue
Co-Editor

Brittney Andersen
Production Manager

Sarah Lake
Advertising Manager

Lindsey Cantrell
News/Photo Editor

Ivan Morales
Copy Editor

Victoria Shiner
Copy Editor

Jael Roza
Sports Editor

Staff Writers:
Brandy Andersen, Victoria Shiner, Elios Albert, Tim Bunce, Travis Olson, Crystol Martinez, Pat O'Carroll, Lindsy Cantrell, Jacqueline Bilot, Ivan Morales

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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Contact information:

Blazer
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431

Phone number:
815-280-2313

Senators take on student debt

By Alex Forgue
Co-Editor

As cost of college continues to rise so does the amount of students who default on their student loans; but a tag-team of three democratic senators claim to have the solution.

Right now, Senators Dick Durbin (Ill.), Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), and Jack Reed (R.I.), are co-sponsoring three separate bills that they each wrote to help lift the burden of student debt on students.

Durbin, from Illinois, has co-sponsored and written a bill that would allow students who declare bankruptcy to get rid of their student debt. At the moment, student debt is the only debt that cannot be erased by filing bankruptcy.

Durbin's bill would also add legal protections for students, or what Durbin describes as, a "student-loans "bill of rights." The bill would require universities and lenders to share certain information such as the student's eligibility for lost-cost government loans, or the terms of how the loan must be repaid to the student that is taking out a loan.

Warren, an expert on bankruptcy law as a former professor at Harvard, has also written her own bill that would make it easier for students to refinance their student loans at a lower rate. That would allow them to pay off loans easier without the fees that come with the inability to make a payment.

Reed introduced a third bill that would place fines on colleges when more than 25 percent of the institution's students take out loans, and more than 15 percent default on those loans. The proposed legislation would provide an incentive for colleges to steer students towards low-cost government loans.

"They will have to make financial judgments based on how well-informed and how reliable their graduates are in terms of paying back their student loans," said Reed.

The money collected from the fines would be used to fund government loans and financial aid programs. The fines will mostly target for-profit universities and colleges that compels students to get costly loans in order to get a degree that won't guarantee a high-paying job.

The three senators, each with their own separate bills, have created a united campaign to help stop the growing debt on students. Despite growing support from fellow Democrats, the three bills have yet to see any bi-partisan support from Republican senators.

As noble as these bills are, the question that students should be asking is are these bills enough to correct the injustice that students have faced for the last few decades? They should also make us question what our standards are for education in this country.

Do we simply allow them to grant us the ability to pay back our debt at a lower rate, or do we start a bigger movement to change the way that we perceive the importance of equal access to higher-education?

Although these bills would add more protections to students who borrow money, they do not erase the debt that so many students have collected or will collect, they simply make paying the debt off a tiny-bit easier to do.

What we should be focused on is making secondary-education a right and not a privilege that will either be denied to you or guarantees you a lifetime worth of debt. We, as students, must demand that education be affordable and accessible to all, and that we will not simply settle or compromise our livelihood into legislation that would just make it a little easier to live with debt the rest of our lives.

So if Warren, Durbin, and Reed would like to actually benefit students and give every citizen a fair and equal opportunity to a quality education, they should not only be introducing bills that would erase all student debt, but would make education free and accessible to all.

America is the richest country in the world, but yet one of the only modernized countries that does not provide its citizens with free education.

Until we can have that, the crisis of student debt will never go away no matter how many student-loan-refinancing bills that senators like Warren, Durbin, and Reed introduce.

88 Keys brings banter and laughter to JJC

BY RICHARD MASKA
Co-Editor

Music rang through the halls stopping students on their way to class as 88 Keys and the Truth, a piano playing and singing duo made up of Andrew Varner and Matty Monk, took song requests from students in an hour and half long show organized by OSA, and held on the Center Bridge.

The show was just one of the many events the college hosted during the first week back for the spring semester; events that included a performance by professional magician Daniel Martin, and JJC's Latinos Unidos mixer and karaoke.

88 Keys had performed at JJC the year before, according to OSA event coordinator Amy Sims, who commented that, "We try to put on events that are fun, interactive and can engage the students with college activities."

The band routinely plays around the country, sporting a large repertoire of songs ranging from contemporary pop to classic rock standards; the set list was entirely comprised of audience requests.

Upon hearing one such request, Varner quipped, "Elton John? Is he a new artist or an old one?" To which Monk replied, "He said he's a rock musician to your stupid question,"

"It was a stupid question," conceded Varner, ending a dialogue that drew laughter from the audience.

Enjoying the humorous rhetoric between the two band members was JJC student, Linda Arnold, who was also impressed at the fact "that they played various types of music; not just one genre."

Arnold, who attends JJC to study Early Childhood Education, commended the pair for "Taking the time to come here to play." Her appreciation grew upon learning 88 Keys was not a student-formed band, "[It's] always fun to see people expressing their talents."

Describing themselves as, "Church boys," from where the pair got their earliest exposure, and lessons in how to play music, as church offered a setting where both were surrounded by other musicians and instructors. Both natives of the Columbus, Ohio area, they formed 88 Keys and the Truth about two years ago.

The band's emphasis, said Monk, is on learning a wide variety of songs to perform, ranging from, "80's, 90's, and Top-40."

"People usually tip it [for playing the requested song], so the more songs you know the more money you make." Monk added that most of their venues are bars and locations where a majority of their earnings come from tips.

"Usually more alcohol is involved than in a show like this one," Varner said, laughing.

Throughout the show the group interacted with the audience about their song requests. Upon learning one student knew how to play the drums, the band offered to let him join in on stage–under the condition that he would find his own drum set.

"They were entertaining, really good, and charismatic" said Michelle Lindeman, another JJC student, Lindeman said she especially enjoyed their rendition of a Mumford and Sons song.

Following the show, the pair gave advice for aspiring musicians, stressing the necessity to practice every day as essential to success.

"As a musician you have to keep practicing all the time to keep it fresh and add to your talent," said Monk, who lamented that, "I have a lot of friends who are musicians that get to a certain point musically and just stop practicing."

"You 'gotta really want it," said Varner.

Andrew Varner, left, and Matty Monk brought a fun and unique style to their music to JJC.
Photos by Lindsey Cantrell

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I really liked the small class sizes at CUC—it was so cool to get to know professors on a personal level. In deciding to transfer to Concordia–Chicago, I knew I didn't want to be at a bigger university where I would just feel like a number. CUC gave me a voice.

—Brittany (Wolff) Brune '13, elementary education major, teacher at St. Peters Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, Indiana

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JJC welcomes the magic man

By Lindsey Cantrell
Staff Writer

Daniel Martin has quickly become one of the most in-demand entertainers in the nation.

His high-energy blend of magic and sarcastic improv comedy consistently lead to standing ovations from his crowds at theaters, campuses and corporate events worldwide.

His performance on the JJC Main Campus Bridge started off with, "I'm Daniel Martin. I don't sing, I don't dance, I do what I do best…I magish."

Martin was recently awarded "Best Live Performer" and has been recognized by Campus Activities Magazine as the TOP rated/BEST reviewed touring act in the country according to his website.

His act has have been featured on CBS, NBC, WGN, VH1, ESPN and at thousands of live events worldwide.

"Without you (the fans), I couldn't do this!" Martin said.

Many of his acts for JJC included a great deal of audience participation.

First, Eric, a JJC student, went up on stage and named Pepsi as his favorite drink.

Martin took out a secret brown paper bag and told Eric to look inside to see if he happened to magically have a Pepsi bottle in there. Eric took out a bottle of root beer.

Matin laughing said, "Oh, but wouldn't that have been awesome!"

Other acts consisted of the mystery of the vanishing banana, a ring ruse, dollar bills appearing inside blown up balloons, and traditional but inventive card tricks.

Martin keeps growing in his talents. This magician/comedian combination is hailed by his peers as one of the most creative acts touring today with some of the biggest names in entertainment frequently choosing Martin to consult on their own live shows and TV projects.

At the early age of six, Martin's grandparents tried to avert his newfound interest of pick pocketing and this is where it all began.

They put his quick hands and devious nature to better uses by purchasing him a magic kit. It was love at first trick, Martin explains.

He started out with the kit's "magic of the month" and began doing shows for anyone who would watch.

At only 12 years old, Martin began performing shows professionally and continued doing so at many hotels, clubs and restaurants in Chicago. It was here where he developed his style and performing chops with his innovative mix of deception and comedy.

Daniel Martin reads himself for the show's finale in which he magically makes the two chairs flanking him disappear. *Photo by Lindsey Cantrell*

This seems to work well especially on college campuses too.

At JJC, he told students that he understands there are still skeptics out there and plans to get them to believe in his ruse.

He takes the classic card trick to another level.

Martin had another student, Claudia, pass out multiple cards to audience members and just by staring at the person after the process and feeding off their vibes and not seeing their cards, he could guess the color and suit of each card they were holding.

The photo shows two empty seats where JJC students once sat but have "vanished." This elaborate prank was one of the students' favorites because they were able to mess with the mind of a student named Andrew.

Ryan and Andrew, both students, went on stage as skeptics and Martin was to prove his skills in making them disappear. Andrew had believed he did.

As the show was closing, Martin ended with the wide-eyed crowd on their feet and students filling up the side halls.

A student held a real paintball gun, with a real, proven paintball inside and aimed it at Martin's face.

After the shot, Martin amazingly grabbed the paintball in his mouth and held it between his teeth.

Anyone who knows the speed and distance at which paintballs are usually shot, and the gear the participants wear, knows the intensity of this stunt.

After years of perfecting his live stage show, Martin began touring the globe with his critically acclaimed "Magically Delicious" and "i Magish" tours.

Residing in Chicago, he still owns his Fisher Price Magic Kit and now will only occasionally pickpocket, he said.

Martin loves receiving comments from fans about the show, so you can visit his page at www.danielmartin.com.

Follow him @iamdanielmartin, or find him on Facebook to do so or see other updates about where he'll magish next.

Theater preview

Tough choices made for JJC's *God of Carnage*

By Victoria Shiner
Staff Writer

Auditions for the student preformed spring play, *God of Carnage*, were held in the JJC Fine Arts theater at 6 p.m. on Jan. 23, 2014.

There are four available roles in this program; two men and two women. There were a total of 14 people who had auditioned, eight of which were women and six of them men.

Full crew and volunteers will be needed for this play and openings for ASM, light, sound board, costumes, and props are also always available.

"This is probably the hardest part, having to pick and choose between all the talent that's seen within the last few days," said director, Nikki Blowers.

"The people you pick to play the parts can either make or break it."

Along with Blowers as director, Becca Sadler will perform duties as stage manager.

The play was written by Yasmina Reza and is a 2009 Tony Award Winner.

With a living room setting, the performance begins with a discussion of a playground altercation between two 11 year old boys.

The play is based around the children's parents' try to resolve the problem with a diplomatic meeting.

As the meeting continues the Brooklyn couple's tension rises, the laughter begins as these 40 year old American families throw their liberal principles away after a little rum.

God of Carnage performances will be held on April 10-12 at 7:30 pm and April 13 at 2 pm.

Blowers describes the play as a "breakdown of the American family with laughter." While seemingly simple, this performance is full of surprises, hilarious plots, and a relatable storyline.

The cast list was released and parts were assigned as following:

Alan: Bobby Smith
Annette: Brittany Peterson
Michael: Cody Marcukaitis
Veronica: Priya Bonds

Auditions for the Spring Festival of One Acts will be held on March 19, at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Campus News Briefs

Discussion panel on HIV/AIDS in the African-American community

The Office of Student Activities and Holistic Wellness will host a discussion panel on Tuesday Feb. 11, 2014 in A-1002. The panel will address the prevalence of HIV/AIDS within the African American community with the goal of raising awareness in prevention, care, and treatment of the disease. Amy Sims is available for contact if more information is desired at asims@jjc.edu or by phone at (815) 280-2202.

Transfer aid

The Transfer Advising Information Session can help students navigate the sometimes complicated process of moving on to another school. Cheryl Turrise, JJC's Transfer Specialist, will be hosting events at various dates throughout the semester in A-1061. For more information, visit the Transfer link on the Counseling and Advising page on the JJC website.

Seminar on abusive relationships

Relationships can sometimes turn violent, and Sherri Morrow of the Counseling Department, wants to help students identify when enough is enough in terms of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and stalking. The session will be on Feb. 12, 2014 on Center Bridge at noon. Contact Amy Sims for more information at asims@jjc.edu or by phone at (815) 280-2202.

Student Government sponsors dance competition

For the chance to win cash prizes and show off your mad dance skills, Student Government is hosting a Dance Off on Feb. 19, 2014 at noon in J-0037. There are a variety of dance categories to enter into, including lyrical/contemporary, jazz, and hip hop. Entry fee is $5 and dance partners are welcome. For more information, contact Pam Dilday at pdilday@jjc.edu or by phone at (815) 280-2755.

Review

Francesca's a good Valentines option

BY CRYSTAL MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

An ideal romantic restaurant

Francesca's at The Promenade is the 19th restaurant to join the fast-growing Francesca's restaurant family, offering, "simple rustic cooking, friendly service, and fair prices" since 1992.

Their menu consists of authentic dished inspired by cuisine from Rome and Tuscany. A diverse wine and beverage list are the perfect accompaniment to their delicious lunch and dinner menu, which includes appetizers, salads, pastas, pizzas, and desserts.

The friendly service almost as amazing as the food, especially an apple dessert they feature which is beyond decadent.

This is a great place for a Valentine's Day date because it offers a romantic setting with good prices considering the large portions.

Walk-ins are welcome but reservations are recommended for those hoping to dine on Valentine's Day, where they will feature Valentine-themed dishes, such as heart-shaped ravioli, to make it an even more of a special night.

Francesca's is located at 641 E. Boughton Rd., Bolingbrook, IL, 60440 Phone: 630-739-6300

Courtesy of www.miafrancesca.com

Humane Society serves community with volunteers

BY CRYSTAL MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

The Will County Humane Society is the oldest no-kill animal shelter in the county. They have been around for over 40 years and have helped provide a safe place for animals to hopefully find their forever home. Their volunteers care for over 40 dogs and 100 cats, and provide food, water, grooming, medicine and exercise to each one, which can get overwhelming as well as rewarding.

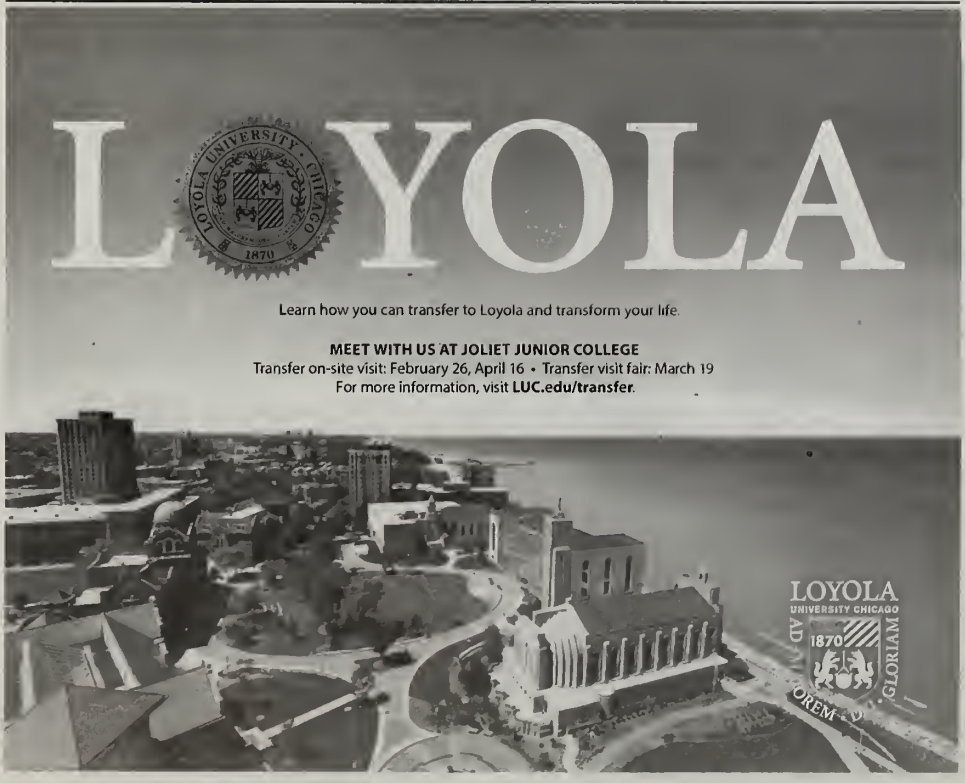
The shelter is private and non-profit, so they rely very much on volunteer help and fundraising, and raise awareness through walk-a-thons, restaurant-fundraising nights, and other events such as holiday parties and raffles.

Any volunteering really helps make a difference for the shelter, and for those with the chance to participate in some of their meet-and-greet days and back sales, it is easy to have a great time. The dogs and cats are, of course, adorable.

And of course, one can volunteer at the shelter by helping care for the animals, becoming a public relations representative, or an adoption counselor. Another great way to help is by donating supplies, which are always in need. These items include such essentials such as dog and cat food, cat litter, as well as other useful items like cleaning supplies and paper towels.

One can support the shelter by going to their Valentine's bake sale on Feb. 8 at the Petco on 59th St. and Black Road.

The full list, and other information, is on their website: http://willcountyhumane.com/. You can also visit their Facebook page, which is another way to keep up with events, job openings and see potential adoptees. Address: 24109 W. Seil Rd. in Shorewood, IL. Phone: (815)741-0695.



Honoring Dr. King took time

By Jacqueline Bilot
Staff Writer

Some view Martin Luther King Jr. Day as just another day we don't have to go to school or a day to sleep in, but one should not fail to remember the reason why we are afforded such luxury, and take the opportunity to reflect on a man so impactful on our modern world

King's work for the justice and equality for African Americans had such an impact on the people that lived during his life, that soon after his assassination in1968, a man asked that a holiday be enacted to honor his life and work.

That man, John Conyers, a congressional Democrat from Michigan, first introduced legislation for a day to honor Martin Luther King Jr. on April 8, 1968, just four days after King's assassination. But this was only the first step towards a day of recognition for Dr. King, as the approval of the day as a national holiday was not granted for another 15 years.

During this time there were several states that put into law that a day be observed to commemorate the life of Dr. King. In April of 1971 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, gathered petitions containing up to 3 million signatures in support of a Dr. King holiday and presented it to Congress.

This was the first of many petitions that were signed in hopes of making it a national holiday, but Congress would fail to advance any legislation that would enact a the holiday.

Illinois was the first state to observe a holiday, thanks to Assemblyman Harold Washington. The Dr. King holiday bill in Illinois was passed in 1973, just five years after the assassination.

After Illinois, in 1974 Massachusetts and Connecticut would enact the holiday, followed by New Jersey in 1975. In 1979 the bill that Conyers brought to the floor over ten years prior was finally put for a floor vote, but was defeated in the House of Representatives by only five votes.

In another effort to get the nation-wide bill passed in 1982, Mrs. King and music legend Stevie Wonder, presented petitions signed by six million people in favor of a national holiday to the House Speaker Tip O'Neil

We celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on the third Monday in January, but this date was not the one originally proposed. The original date coincided with Dr. King's birthday on Jan 15, but its proximity to New Year and Christmas celebrations was considered too close, so it was changed to the date we observe it now.

This is one reason the King Holiday bill was able to pass in the U.S. House of Representatives, in August of 1983, with the date set on the third Monday in January, passing by a vote of 338-90. Then, on Nov. 3, 1983, 15 years after King's assassination, President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law, making every third Monday in January, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and a National Holiday beginning in 1986.

Finally, on Jan. 20, 1986, the first National Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed. By this time 17 states already celebrated a holiday in honor of King. By January of 1989, 44 states had enacted the holiday, with the last two states to enact Martin Luther King Day being Arizona, which joined in 1993 and New Hampshire, who enacted the holiday in June, 1999.

This brought every state into the fold, completing a final step to ensure a great honor for man of great achievement. In overcoming huge obstacles in the fight for justice and racial equality, Dr. King became an inspiration in his lifetime, and a martyr in death, and forever a symbol for all of us to fight for what is right and just.

Brandon Jackson and student speakers honor Martin Luther King Jr. at the recent "Walk for Freedom."
Photos by Lindsey Cantrell

Congressman and students march to commemorate the life of Dr. King

By Travis Olson
Staff Writer

JJC students and staff recently took part in, "A Walk for Freedom," a main campus event that commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a symbolic walk from the cafeteria, down the hallway, and into the center bridge where a speech was held in memory of Dr. King.

Illinois congressmen Bill Foster (D) attended the Jan. 22 event, and lead the group of students and faculty members through the length of the walk.

Several students held banners along the way, with two that walked beside Foster in the lead of the group. The banner to Foster's right read, "Equal Rights for All" and the banner on his left read, "Freedom Rings for All."

At the bridge, Brandon Jackson, JJC's multicultural retention specialist, read Dr. King's "I have a dream" speech with four other students, each assigned their own section. As it concluded, each speaker came together at the podium and joined each other in unison to utter one of Dr. King's most famous passages, "We cannot walk alone... We cannot turn back."

After that Leon Victor Anderson was introduced onto the stage who told a civil rights integration story from when he was young and attending an intergraded school and college in the 1960s in Claymont, Del. His story consisted of his personal reactions and accounts of the integration of schools where he attended.

"Claymont in 1952 was chosen to integrate," he said, "Everyone's opinions varied."

When a walk was organized to sustain segregation, "Some students didn't want to and refused to walk for the event."

On Sept. 4, 1952 integration commenced in earnest when 11 African Americans were admitted into the Delaware high school, making them the first black students to be allowed into a white public school.

Anderson explained how this provided opportunities they had never been exposed to be before,

"There were no black lawyers, engineers, superintendents at this time" said Anderson.

Just over a decade later, Dr. King was at the forefront of a movement that was making the integration felt at Claymont a nationwide agenda.

He would give his famous "I have a dream" speech in 1963 in front of the Lincoln Memorial with thousands gathering below. With today's march, JJC honors Dr. King, and commemorates him for his contributions to the advancement of racial equality in modern America.

Speaker Leon Anderson talks about desegregation at his public high school during the early 1950s.

Center continued

their constituents.

"It can be difficult to raise fees in an election year," said McGuire.

The senator said the last capital budget bill was funded largely by raises on video poker gambling fees, privatization of the state lottery, and higher taxes on soft beverages.

Getting the capital bill passed is a personal matter for McGuire, who spent the late 1990s and early 2000s at JJC as an English tutor in the STAR Program and as an adjunct professor. He then served a term as Will County Treasurer before completing the term of former State Sen. A.J. Wihelmi, who resigned as state senator in 2012. Later that fall McGuire would run and get elected to a four-year term.

During a dinner at the governor's mansion last spring, Quinn spoke in length about passing a capital budget bill, and repeatedly stressed the need to improve infrastructure overall throughout the state, McGuire said.

If the governor proposes the capital bill, McGuire said he expects the governor to be four-score ahead for funding it.

"Gov. Quinn definitely appreciates Will County as an engine of economic development, and community colleges are a large part of that," said McGuire.

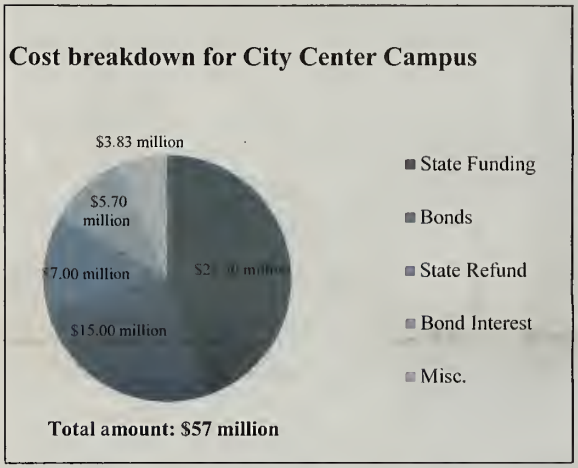
When the governor gives his budget address on Feb. 29, McGuire said he expects him to discuss the state income tax and the capital budget bill.

"I'm eager to hear when the governor thinks money can be found to fund a capital projects," McGuire said. "My hope is that if it is passed, it will remain number one on the Board of Higher Educations list, [because] being number one on the list of funds means the funds would be delivered quickly."

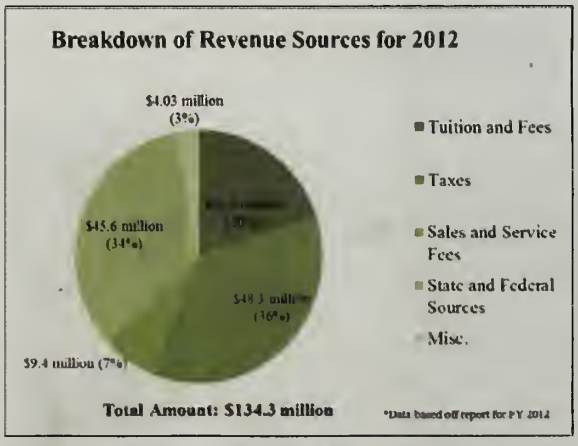
He added, "The overarching question could be where the revenue will come from."

McGuire said the best opportunity to pass the bill will come in the regular spring session, which runs until May 31. If the bill is shelved and not passed, McGuire and Walsh have two more opportunities to re-introduce the measure during November's veto session and next January's lame duck session.

If the state fails to produce a capital bill, the college will turn to other funding sources, said JJC's Director of External Relations Kelly Rohder. She said the funding would be made up using money saved from the 2008 referendum, construction projects that came in under budget and state refund dollars, as well as interest earned on the college's bonds.



This graph depicts the cost breakdown for the City Center Campus construction and was retrieved from The Times Weekly reporting. Funds for the project are largely derived from money promised from the state's capital budget bill.



The total revenue earned by JJC for 2012 is shown in the above figure. Of the $134.3 million in projected revenue, 34 percent, or roughly $45.6 million came from State and Federal Sources--including the $25.5 million dollars "promised" to the school by the passage of a state capital bill fund.

Board to consider tuition hike in March

BY RICHARD MASKA

Co-Editor

A vote on an increase of overall tuition rates per semester hour is planned for an early March meeting of the JJC Board of Trustees.

"The increase would be $4 and would directly support operating expenses at the college," according to Kelly Rohder, JJC's director of external relations.

This comes after the board voted to raise tuition fees last August and could be the second such hike in eight months if passed.

Increases to tuition had been planned for in JJC's Financial Plan for 2014-16 which detailed increments of $4 that raises overall tuition and fees from $111 to $119 over that three year period.

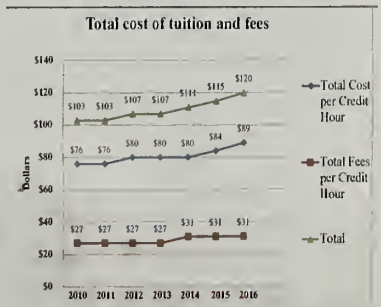
According to the report, "The tuition and fee increases that are being used are the amounts necessary to fund current operations along with deferred maintenance and technology replacements."

The tuition increase that passed last August will help support the sale of $70 million in bonds the college plans on utilizing on construction projects and debt reconstructing.

The multipurpose building

The Romeoville Campus is the fastest growing JJC campus site and currently serves about four thousand students. The planned expansion would more than double the building size from 24,062 to 51,062 square feet.

Even with these increases as of 2013, the average tuition at JJC was $3210 compared to $3471 for its peer group. This figure represents the average cost for 30 credit hours per academic year.



The above chart represents fees and tuition at JJC since 2010 as well as projected values per credit hour based on the Financial Plan for 2014. The three-year plan outlined indicates a steady increase in the total cost per credit hour from 2014-2016.

Marijuana

similar in comparison. They may not be located closer than 2,500 feet of the property line of schools, day care facilities or residentially zoned property. They must have appropriate security, and they cannot allow consumption on-site.

The motion to adopt the new ordinance was made by councilwoman Jan Quillman, and it was seconded by councilman Michael Turk.

Ultimately, it was carried by the unanimous vote of in favor of the measure by Mayor Thomas Giarrante and the remaining four council members.

I-Frankenstein: rehash comes out stale

BY PATRICK O'CARROLL
Staff Writer

I, Frankenstein flops hard for reasons both understandable but also unreasonable. Despite a weak theater lineup, www.boxofficemojo.com reported *I, Frankenstein* in 6th place in box office earnings with only $8.3 million. While I was watching the film, I could comprehend why, but I was also astounded that it failed to do so well.

The film centers on Aaron Eckhart as Frankenstein's monster. His character, later named Adam, as he is caught up in the battle between the race of demons and gargoyles and only he has the power to stop the demons from creating the ultimate army and destroying the gargoyles along with the rest of mankind.

Aaron Eckhart, who is well known for his roles as Harvey Dent/Two-Face in The Dark Knight, did a so-so job as Adam. When I was watching the movie I felt he drew too much from his character morphing performance as Two-Face. Throughout the course of the movie he was supposed to be self-centered, yet slowly realizing that he can serve a purpose other than frightening humanity. Eckhart fails to be convincing as it still seemed like he carried vigilantism with him.

Yvonne Strahovski, who is famous for her roles as Sarah Walker on NBC's *Chuck*, and also Hannah McKay on *Dexter*, plays Terra, a doctor trying to discover the secret of re-animation but can't seem to piece it all together. While her performance was lacking in depth, it was good enough not to leave the bad taste Eckhart's performance did. That said, her supporting role lacked the opportunity to showcase the talents she's shown frequently in *Dexter*.

Bill Nighy plays the wonderful-to-watch villain Prince Naberius, the ruthless head of the demon clan set on destroying gargoyles and humankind. Nighy duplicates the menace he brought in his role as Davy Jones from the second and third installments in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy.

Nighy is fantastic in such a role and fulfills his niche as an iconic bad guy. And while he does borrow heavily on performances from his past films, he makes far better use of this experience when compared to Eckhart.

The high point of the film is definitely the special effects. Anytime conflict occurs, be it a small skirmish or glorious battle between Adam, the gargoyles and demons, the screen was lit up better than any Fourth of July fireworks display.

The intricate flashbacks for Adam during his creation sequence gave homage to those who enjoy Mary Shelly's classic original novel.

The low points of the film are certainly the similarities it shares with *The Underworld* series and *Van Helsing*, such as the idea of trying to use Frankenstein's monster to create an army, which has worked out well in previous films, for this film it proves unoriginal. The premise of feuding races of mythical creatures is worn out from *Underworld* and is something that has been done time and time again.

Because I am a sucker for horror flicks, the film earns three out of five stars. Despite its unoriginality there was enough positive aspects that made the film enjoyable, though, I would only recommend it for those that value the aspects a Frankenstein movie can have. But for those looking for a new kind of horror adventure, stay clear of *I, Frankenstein*.

Courtesy of impawards.com

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Restaurant review

Jody's offers great food and atmosphere

BY TIM BUNCE
Staff Writer

Jody's brings Chicago style to our neck of the woods

While there are hotdog and beef places all over the JJC area, there is one that is relatively unknown to students. Located at 326 Republic Ave., Joliet, Jody's is a 1950s style diner that offers more than the traditional hotdogs, beef sandwiches, burgers, and gyros.

For example, there are menu options such as chicken parmesan, patty and tuna melts, and grilled and fried chicken sandwiches. You can even order a sub there if you want, and this is not even the extent of it.

However, Jody's is essentially a hotdog place. They specialize in the Chicago-style way of making them which includes mustard, onion, tomato, sport peppers, pickles, cucumbers, celery salt, and neon-green relish. You can order a regular or jumbo size as well as the double-dog option. Because of the exclusive nature to the Chicago-style way of making hotdogs, they will give you ketchup if you want, but you may be teased about it; this is part of the fun atmosphere at Jody's.

Great customer service seems to be one of the great features of Jody's. During my visit, everyone who came through the door received a greeting and a 'thank you' as they left. Mike and Elizabeth Villarreal, the owners of Jody's, have held their positions since October of 2009.

The fries are made a special way—they are fried twice. Villarreal would not give out the secret to how they are made but they are fresh cut and fried with the skins. They can be topped with cheese, chili cheese, or even with garlic.

For those looking for something healthier or vegetarian, you are not out of luck. With other things, they offer salads, veggie wraps and portabella sandwiches. If you are looking for something lighter, they make fresh soup daily.

Jody's has a beverage fountain with various Coke products as well as a cooler with other cans and bottles. There is a bottle opener attached to the wall for patrons to use. They also serve milk shakes in vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry as well as desert items such as cheesecake.

What really set Jody's apart from other similar establishments are their nachos. The chips are made daily and they are all served with the standard nacho toppings as well as specialties such as buffalo chicken toppings. In my personal opinion, the Philly cheesesteak nachos are the most delicious as they put a Philly cheesesteak on top of the chips along with the standard nacho toppings.

Aside from the delicious food, Jody's has a great atmosphere including a décor of classic cards, an Elvis statue as well as a wall of Marilyn Monroe pictures. There are also video games as well as a flat screen television.

With Lent right around the corner, they will have non-meat Friday Lenten specials. And speaking of specials, Jody's offers JJC students a ten percent discount with a valid student ID. Jody's can also be found on Groupon as well as Restaurant.com.

Elvis is still the king at Jody's on Republic Avenue in Joliet.

Photo by Tim Bu...

Deep Cuts

Deep Purple gets monumental with *In Rock*

BY JOEL ROZA
Staff Writer

As the frantic opening solo to the opening track "Speed King" fades out, listeners back in 1970 that were familiar with the first three Deep Purple albums could instantly tell that it's new and improved second lineup, commonly referred to as Deep Purple, Mark two (Mk II), was going in a far different direction.

At the end of 1969, Deep Purple had released three LPs in just under two years' time, carving out a niche as the English version of Vanilla Fudge; that is, taking other artists' original songs, and re-doing them with bigger, more bombastic arrangements.

Joe South's "Hush" and Neil Diamond's "Kentucky Woman" were examples of this common approach taken by many rock bands of the time as they searched for the next movement in rock.

After hearing Led Zeppelin I, drummer Ian Paice, keyboardist Jon Lord, and guitarist Ritchie Blackmore cleared out vocalist Rod Evans and bassist Nick Simper, replacing them with the leather-lunged Ian Gillan on vocals, and bassist Roger Glover.

While the team of Lord, Paice and Blackmore were a gelled, sophisticated writing team, Gillan and Glover brought a naiveté and simplicity to the music that aided the band's transition to riff rock.

After the experimental Concerto For Group and Orchestra in 1969, the Mk II lineup of Deep Purple quickly hit the studio and churned up, and I cannot overstate this enough, one of rock and early metal's first masterpieces - In Rock.

What's always set Deep Purple apart from fellow English bands like Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin is that Purple is the band with the keyboards - Jon Lord hammering away on the Hammond organ, which is plugged through a Marshall amp. Lord's keyboards weren't just featured in Purple; the keyboard itself was emancipated from its long-held place in the back of the stage, or as just a coloring of the sound.

On In Rock, the foundation of what Deep Purple would become forevermore was laid down by the sheer brilliance of Lord on songs such as "Child in Time," and "Hard Lovin' Man." Lord's ability to counter, aid, and often carry Blackmore's guitar through songs, giving it weight and making songs heavier than they really were was a magic few, if any, bands ever accomplished.

If you go back and listen to Purple's first three records with Rod Evans on vocals, it's hard to imagine his silky voice being able to operate effectively on this album. Ian Gillan forged his permanent place as the Voice of Deep Purple immediately on this record, introducing a still-very young rock genre to the screams, shrieks and shrills that today are so commonplace throughout the many genres and sub-genres of rock and metal.

However, Gillan's screams were less about aggression and more about emotion. In "Child in Time," Gillan's ability to escalate his screams as the music amped up in volume and intensity is both ear-shattering and stupefying. There's truly no vocalist like him in rock (though many try). As the song takes a harder stance midway through, Blackmore's milky-smooth solo fills the air in a way that can only be described as a trance. It's the perfect song for such a perfect record of the time.

On top of the epic "Child in Time," and the relentless chugging of "Hard Lovin' Man," In Rock also features titanic tracks like "Speed King," which features lyrical odes to Elvis and Little Richard, "Bloodsucker" (which was re-recorded by Purple on their 1997 album, Abandon, with guitarist Steve Morse in place of the departed Blackmore), and "Flight of the Rat." The album itself was originally only 7 tracks long, which adds to the compact, yet powerful punch that the album delivers.

Classic rock radio across America today shamelessly trumpets the same 4-5 Deep Purple songs mutinely, letting those tracks stand as the only marker of the band known to new generations of rock fans.

Most casual rock listeners of today only know Purple for their few radio staples, such as "Smoke on the Water," "Highway Star," "Space Truckin'," and "Burn" (the former three being off of Purple's legendary Machine Head record).That's a crime. Deep Purple, and its many incarnations, have launched, furthered, and expanded the careers of so many of rock's elite, and the music left in its wake is not exceeded by anyone.

While Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin opted for a harder, more straight-forward sound, Deep Purple, mining a relatively similar background of blues, jazz and early rock, managed to create a rifted out style that included precursors to so many of the key characteristics of what would become heavy metal and hard rock. In Rock was the start of that and should be proudly owned by each and every self-respecting rock fan.

Courtesy of deeppurple.com

Learn to bake sweet success for Valentine's Day

BY BRANDY ANDERSEN
staff writer

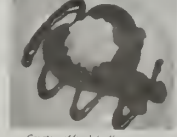
Chocolates, cookies, cakes, candies; just a few things you might consider making for that special someone or maybe a close friend. This Valentine's Day I have just a few tips to bake and decorate a delicious Valentine's Day gift. Beginners and experts alike will find incredible Valentine's Day ideas with easy to follow, detailed instructions to create a delicious treat that all will enjoy.

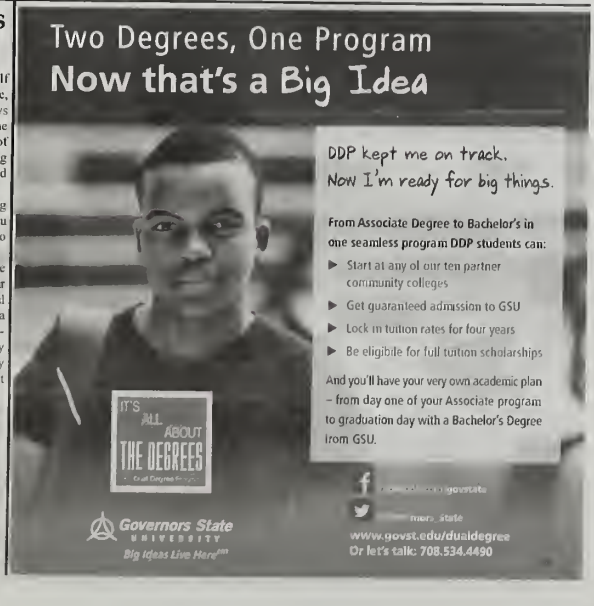
For one, you want to make sure it is easy for you to understand and follow. The internet is a great place to start or just browsing your local grocery store in the bakery aisle. You can find a lot of decorating tools at Jo-Ann's and Michaels as well if you want a nice professional look to make a great impression.

Next, to bake the cake. Make sure when you bake the cake that it is even, if not you can always shave off the bulges with a knife after cooling it down. It is helpful if you have icing bags to make it easier to spread on the cake. If you plan on putting filling inside, cut the cake in half sideways evenly and carefully take off the top. With that, put a good layer of icing on the bottom so the filling doesn't soak into the cake and make it soggy.

Lastly, for a nice finishing touch, if you have icing tips, you can add beautiful detailing to cover up any rough edges.

Hopefully you will be able to find this information to your advantage or find more material online to help you make a beautiful cake for loved ones, co-workers, and friends alike. Enjoy this upcoming Valentine's Day and the Blazer hopes it is a sweet one!


Courtesy of familyfeedfun.com



Lone Survivor revives war film genre

By Lindsey Cantrell

Staff Writer

Lone Survivor, starring Mark Wahlberg (as Marcus Luttrell), tells the story of four Navy SEALs on an ill-fated covert mission to neutralize a high-level Taliban operative. The story shows the real life journey these soldiers made as they were ambushed by enemy forces in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan.

Based on The New York Times bestseller, this story of heroism, courage and survival written and directed by Peter Berg also stars Taylor Kitsch (Mike Murphy), Emile Hirsch (Danny Dietz), Ben Foster (Matt "Axe" Axelson), Alexander Ludwig (Shane Patton) and Eric Bana (Commander Erik Kristensen).

Luttrell, Murphy, Dietz, and Axe set out on a mission to capture or kill notorious Al Qaeda leader Ahmad Shahd, in late June 2005. They are left to fight for their lives in one of the most valiant efforts of modern warfare when the plan takes a turn in the wrong direction. *Lone Survivor* is a rarity—an American film about the war in Afghanistan that has actually been a hit. Not since *Saving Private Ryan* has a war film been as popular.

The film shows true war-like sequences, and yet, director Berg somehow crafts a story of patriotic heroism against the odds. He puts the audience straight into the action of ambushed and desperate soldiers as they fight to stay alive on their mission.

The characters that are represented by these actors do a fantastic job of emitting the true meaning behind what our military stand for. The soldiers here aren't much interested in the politics behind the war. First and foremost, they're loyal to one another, fiercely competitive, but fair-minded.

At the start of the film, the audience is transported to clips showing the hardships of basic training for actual soldiers in our military. Their ferocious training regime makes it clear that they have huge reserves of stamina.

We see the soldiers preparing for their mission. Their commander, Kristensen, gives them instructions about the Taliban commander they're targeting and how they should make radio contact when he is in sight. That is the plan. If it should go astray, the commander and a back-up team, including Patton who is a newcomer on the premise, will be up in helicopters and on the way immediately.

Once the mission has begun, the four SEALs out there are faced with a decision that could corrupt the entire operation. Will they stick to the American motto or the mission at hand? Soon after, Taliban followers begin to pursue and hunt them down and the American radio communications seem to fail the soldiers at a vital moment of the attack.

The action sequences are brutal and very well choreographed. The makeup artists' work for their wounds is astounding on each of the men throughout the film. With each new scene and new scar, a new knot formed in your stomach as an audience member. These stars truly put everything on the line to accomplish the look and feel of this film. Soldiers, in every sense of the word, were presented on screen.

The four American actors bring a warm, brotherhood bond and humor to their roles with each other invariably finding wisecracks even at the most perilous moments. Berg strikes a triumphal note by the end for some justice for their stories. You are able to see the fact that these are good, strong men and are out there for one thing: to protect our country and our freedom.

When the credits roll, photographs are shown, and the audience can get a glimpse of the real soldiers who were portrayed. It was a touching way to end a dramatic, rollercoaster ride of emotions film—especially for those of us who have known or still know of someone actively in our military.

This film proved all that these men have to do to keep us safe, and their never-give-up spirit flies across the screen into the audience's hearts at every angle. It is definitely one worth seeing. The unimaginable torture and courage all of these soldiers were put through stays with you after you exit the theater.

Outdoor outlook

For the avid angler, the frequent hunter, or to all with a passion for the great outdoors, we strive to give you the latest trends, reports and tips on all the hottest spots in our neck of the woods.

This forum is made possible by the help of Mike Gorman, acting manager at Angelo's Bait Shop in Wilmington, the Will County Forest Preserve and reader contributions, in an effort to make sure that no time spent outdoors is time wasted.

Share pictures of your recent successes complete with the winning strategy, high tales, and honest-to-god truths on our Facebook, or by email, because as every fisherman knows: for every big catch, a bigger one got away, and for every buck the hunter claimed, a larger one vanished into the forest.

We advocate catch and release fishing and sustainable hunting practices that ensure the places we love to go to will stay that way for generations to come.

Ice-time on local lakes

Mazonia and Wilmington/Coal City area strip mine lakes: Due what has been a historically cold winter anglers have had safe-ice the entire season, a far cry from the temperate conditions the year before. Currently the ice is anywhere from 8-14 inches thick; which is enough to support a pickup truck on.

The best action has been found on lakes Ponderossa and Goose.

Bluegill and sunfish are being caught in good numbers and size. Panfish of all sizes usually gorge themselves in late fall anticipating winter when they will need to slow their metabolism and become largely dormant.

Larger panfish, on the other hand, will remain active and, "Just keep on feeding throughout the whole season." As Gorman explains, the larger the fish is, the more food it will need throughout the year, making them ready feeders regardless of the colder weather.

Bass have been dormant, but good-sized northern pike have been caught in Mazonia's larger lakes using large minnows or suckers on a tip-up rig.

Braidwood Lake: is closed for hunting and will reopen March 1, 2014.

Heidecke Lake: is closed will reopen for fishing on April 1, 2014.

Shabonna Lake: Lakeside is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday-Sunday 8 a.m. 2- p.m.

Hunting

Rabbit and Squirrel season will end Feb. 15.

Coyote season is open and year round with 24/7 hunting opportunities available until at least Feb. 15.

Deer season in review: Numbers were down for deer in virtually all areas, as culling measures performed by IDNR and diseases such as Epizootic hemorrhagic disease, and the blue-tongue disease have had a negative impact on deer populations.

Co-Editor Rich Maska displays catch from last year. Spring can't get here soon enough.

Commentary

Lady Wolves try to put it together after rough start to hoops season

BY JOEL ROZA

Sports Editor

The Lady Wolves' season up through the first nineteen contests could be reasonably described as a roller-coaster, with numerous two-game winning streaks and three-game losing streaks culminating in a then-7-12 overall record (2-2 N4C). As the team took the court on Wednesday, Jan. 22 against the Wilbur Wright Rams, the Wolves were in desperate need of a spark and a push in one direction or another.

Enter: Le'Roiya Campbell; the freshman guard from Oswego East High School controlled the tempo from the start, helping facilitate much of JJC's offense.

"There's no one that can stop her from doing what she's capable of doing", said Lady Wolves coach Shaun Sanderson.

"We've just been putting the pressure on her [saying] this is what you can do, and this is what you have to do, and if you don't, you're going to have a seat and she doesn't want to have a seat. On top of that, she's been working her butt off with film."

Campbell finished with 14 points and 5 assists, but her impact on the game was felt throughout as she led the team's stifling and suffocating defense, ending the first half on a 25-4 run, turning a short 13-10 lead into a 38-14 intermission score.

Kanitral Averhart, foreground, battles for a loose ball.

Photo by Lindsey Cantrell

In the second half, the Lady Wolves ran through the Rams, causing turnovers at an alarming rate, hitting the glass, getting to the line, and whipping Wilbur Wright out of the building.

"We tend to relax at times," Sanderson opined, "and when you do that things can [get out of hand], and a 30-point lead turns into a 20-point lead, then 15 and 10 and suddenly you're scratching and clawing."

It was an inspiring attitude that was manifested in the team's "quiet giant", Rosalinda Vasquez, who seemed to give the Lady Wolves an extra lift with a 4-5 minute stretch of hard-nosed play by hitting he glass, hitting the floor for loose balls, and getting to the free throw line for the occasional 'And 1'.

"If you just watch her, you'll see how physical she is," said Sanderson, "You might see her grab someone's shorts at times."

"I mean, she doesn't say much – she's quiet as a church mouse, but she's says a lot with her game."

Throughout the game, hands were active; the defense was intense – even going into a half-court trap D late with the team up by over 30, and the ball moved with a precision that was likely something Sanderson wishes he could bottle up and infuse into each and every game.

While the Rams did not present a major challenge, the win against Wilbur Wright could the kind of game that sets the tone for the rest of the season.

Unfortunately, that crisp and efficient brand of basketball vanished on Saturday Jan. 25 when the Lady Wolves fell to top-ranked and defending two-time national champion Rock Valley College in yet another road disappointment that has become the norm this season.

That was followed by a 69-54 loss at College of DuPage on Jan. 29. At 3-9 on the road, the Lady Wolves won't be able to muster much of a fight come the end of the season if they are unable to solve their road deficiencies.

With only four home games left, it's a conundrum Sanderson must solve quickly.

Despite the setback, the Lady Wolves have shown the ability to play sparkling team ball. With key conference games coming up, this stretch will make or break the Lady Wolves' season.

Commentary

Bulls stand tall despite high number of changes

BY ELIAS ALBERT

Staff writer

Change, a term often associated with politics and more serious subjects, has become a motivating force for the Chicago Bulls.

The most recent, and by far most impactful, change the Bulls have recently made was the trade of starting small forward Luol Deng to the division rival Cleveland Cavaliers on Jan. 7.

Deng was exchanged for three future draft picks and center Andrew Bynum, but mostly for the draft picks and salary cap space. Almost immediately after acquiring Bynum, the Bulls waived the unstable veteran.

Though Deng was traded, it was not because of a lack of performance on his part. Deng had been a member of the Bulls' roster since 2004 after being drafted by the Phoenix Suns and immediately bring traded to Chicago.

Since, Deng has played in over 600 games and has shot at over 46 percent from the field. Besides playing often, he took on an obvious and respected "iron man" role by playing over 35 minutes per game.

Capping off Deng's already impressive resume was his two appearances as an NBA All-Star with the Bulls, and his well deserved reputation of being a strong defender and an efficient scorer.

So now that Deng has been traded, some may say that the Bulls have tossed the white flag on the 2013-14 season. With Derrick Rose lost early in the year to a meniscus tear, and a high amount of inconsistency in starters with both playing time and performance, it would only make sense that a sort of rebuilding process would commence.

Although Deng is gone, they have added a number of promising acquisitions such as the signing of D.J. Augustine to play point guard in relief of the frequently injured long-term Rose. With Marquis Teague struggling, Chicago traded him to the Brooklyn Nets for Tornike Shengalia.

Point and shooting guard Mike James, who has been an on and off member of the Bulls' roster for a number of years now, has returned to the team on yet another 10-day contract.

With many big name free agents hitting the market at season's end, and a number of high profile college stars earning draft eligibility, absolutely anything can happen.

As far as the outlook for this season is concerned, Bulls fans should not have particularly high expectations. The moves being executed by the team's management makes it obvious that the intention is to prepare for the future, and with three additional draft picks, that future looks brighter now than it has.

However this season is still worth playing since its gives the Bulls time to assess its current talent, like shooting guard Jimmy Butler and point guard Kirk Heinrich, and even though it may appear far-fetched at this point, the playoffs are still a decent possibility which classifies this season as one definitely still worth watching.

TRANSFER PROGRAMS IN:

Information Technology and Management
- System Administration
- Web Design and Applications Development
- IT Entrepreneurship and Management
- Systems Security
- Software Development
- Networking and Communications
- Data Management

Industrial Technology and Management
- Industrial Facilities
- Industrial Sustainability
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Men face key stretch en route to playoffs

Zoran Aresnovic, 23, rises up to lay one in against Wilbur Wright.

Photo by Lindsey Cantrell

Effort key to Wolves run through conference schedule

By Elias Albert

Staff Writer

The Wolves enter the final stretch of the regular season with a 16-7 record after defeating the College of Dupage on Jan. 29, 77-69, rebounding from a tough 88-81 loss to Rock Valley four days earlier.

In the win against COD, the Wolves were led by Deiondre Cunningham with 22 points. Larry Moore added 12 points, while Todd Brown scored 11. Justin Scanlan almost posted a double-double with 9 points and 10 rebounds.

In the Rock Valley loss, Cunningham led the Wolves with 26 points and Zoran Aresnovic's scored 21.

Overall, the season has had more ups than downs for the Wolves, as they continue to push for the post-season. With seven games to go, starting with the Feb. 1 contest at Harper College, they are looking towards the Region IV playoffs, which begin on March 1.

Against Wilbur-Wright on Jan. 22, they took another step forward, although the bout turned out a bit more interesting than it probably should have been.

After absolutely dominating the contest early, the Wolves held a 20-2 lead in the opening stages of the game. But the Wolves would let the Rams back into the game enough for to see the deficit to shrink from 20 to six points.

However, the Wolves would be able to hold on to the lead with two clutch three-pointers by guard Deiondre Cunningham. From then on the Wolves would coast safely to a victory over the Rams with a final score of 69-60.

For coaches, it was hardly a satisfying result as the Wolves were able to narrowly avoid a complete meltdown in game that earlier had appeared as if it was going to be a blowout.

Forward Justin Scanlan led the team with 21 points, Cunningham added 10 rebounds to his 16 points, guard Zoran Aresnovic and guard Larry Moore managed 12 and nine respectively.

Though it was not the most attractive victory for the Wolves, it will still count as a win in the standings.

"I love how we came out and took control of the game early but we sort of coasted the rest of the way," said Wolves head coach Joe Kuhn after the game,

"We have put ourselves in a nice position early in the conference race but we will need to bring our best effort of the year this weekend."

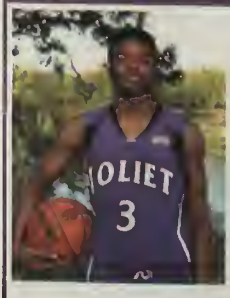
The nice early position Kuhn speaks of is the 15-6 overall record along with an impressive 5-0 record in the North Central Community College Conference including a 7-game win streak.

Kuhn's statement about bringing their best effort was because the Wolves were preparing to pay 17-4 Rock Valley College a visit. Unfortunately, as reported above, the Wolves fell short by, 88-81, suffering their first loss in conference play.

Despite the loss at Rock Valley, the Wolves should still feel satisfied with the way that the season has played out thus far. Being 5-1 in the early going of the conference schedule is very promising. With eight games remaining, there's a great opportunity to improve even more, however it will take a strong efforts out of the whole roster.

The Wolves are set to visit the College of Dupage on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. The Chaparrals will enter the game on a two game win streak and an 8-14 overall record. One should expect the Wolves to come in nicely prepared and heavily favored.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE



Deiondre Cunningham has been on a scoring tear as he scored 18 points vs. Milwaukee Area Technical College and added 16 points vs. Wilbur Wright College. His most productive games in the stretch were against Rock Valley College, when he scored 26, and the College of Dupage, when he scored 22.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Le'royta Campbell has been a bright spot for the womens basketball team this season. In recent outings she scored 11 points vs. South Suburban and 14 points vs. Wilbur Wright College in a huge 74-30 win. She also added 13 points against Rock Valley College and 12 points vs. College of DuPage.

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SPORTS SPECIAL EDITION

Leon Gray drives to the hoop in a recent home win against Rock Valley College.

Photos by Lindsey Cantrell

Le'Roya Campbell is described as bubbly by her coaches and teammates off the court, but she's a fierce competitor on it. See story on Page 16 for the scoop on this star-in-the-making.

Rosalinda Vasquez looks to make a play as she brings the ball up the court against Rock Valley.

JJC tops 3rd ranked Rock Valley

By Elias Albert

Staff Writer

With the regular season nearing its end, The Joliet Junior College men's basketball team was poised and ready to pull off a victory against a powerful Rock Valley team, ranked 3rd nationally at tip-off, on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

After a sub-par first half, which the Wolves trailed in by a score of 33-26, the momentum would begin to swing in the Wolves' favor. After numerous points of alternating baskets and possessions, the Wolves

See Mens basketball on page 15

Lady Wolves prep for postseason

By Elias Albert

Staff Writer

Resiliency is essential in the world of sports, and no exception is made in the case of the Joliet Junior College women's basketball team as they invited Rock Valley to their home court.

Unfortunately, it was never truly the game that the Lady Wolves wanted as they were dominated by Rock Valley by a final score of 75-40. The 35-point defeat is the worst the Lady Wolves have suffered since a loss by the exact same margin to the same powerful Rock Valley team.

Rock Valley College came into the contest as the top-ranked team in the nation and, to make matters worse, the Lady Wolves were without star guard Le'royia Campbell, who was nursing a

See Womens basketball, page 14

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Looking forward to spring after long harsh winter

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Lego movie: the must-watch movie of the year

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EDITORIAL

Winter taking its toll on roads--and us

It seems to be that no matter what day it is, you wake up to hear the same depressing weather report of more snow and even lower temperatures than the day before.

This has been the trend for most of the mid-west and north –east of the United States the last two months as we continue to reach record-low temperatures and record-snowfall. A recent report in the Herald News, the area has received 62.2 inches of snow so far this year compared to 20.7 inches last year.

Locally, the impact has been grand for students and community members. Driving conditions have been terrible and the amount of accidents has increased.

Kelly Rhoder, director of communications and external relations at JJC, commented that "We have not had a significant increase in traffic accidents, but a contributing factor to some has been the high mounds of snow … which ultimately cam partially block drivers' views at intersections."

According to JJC police reports, 13 traffic accidents have occurred since the beginning of winter, five of which were directly related to ice slippage or collisions with mounds of snow.

Rohder also added that, "We have had several slip and fall accidents that have occurred as people try to maneuver through the snow and ice." Over the same period of time, seven pedestrians were reported to have ice-related falls, one resulting in a brief hospitalization on Feb. 3.

Local high schools and Joliet Junior college have had to cancel class multiple times due to these weather extremes. This has caused faculty members and students to adjust their schedules in order to catch up on material and get back on schedule due to missing a few days of classes.

The Herald reported the City of Joliet has spent nearly $235,000 on both snow removal services for subdivision culs-de-sacs, and emergency repairs for frozen water services; much of this figure was spent on sub-contracted snow removal services that totaled up to $159,000, and an additional $70,000 for repairs work on the over 100 water main breaks that have occurred this year

Nationally, the effects of the harsh winter have been awful. According to a report on NBC news, economists estimate that the winter has cost the economy $15 billion dollars since December as people refuse to go out due to it being so cold which has lowered consumer rates. However, one industry that hasn't seen a decrease, but rather an increase in customers is the gas industries.

Natural gas and oil companies have seen their demand increase rapidly as people are heating their homes more frequently and for a longer period of time; as a result, the prices of heating and gas has increased, and homeowners have faced costly gas bills.

Bad driving conditions have not just been a local issue, but a national one as well. Although plows have been able to clear roads of snow, the cold temperatures have made the salt ineffective of being able dissipate the ice on the roads. As a result, the amount of accidents and the severity of car accidents have increased across the nation.

With massive pile-ups on interstates like I-94 which killed 3 people and injured over 20 more, the insurance rates have also gone up.

Despite not getting in a car accidents, the cold temperatures have caused mechanical problems for many; many people have had to replace engine parts such as batteries and there has been an increase in tow and road-side assistance services like AAA.

When it has come to traveling this winter, many people have experience delays or were force to move or cancel travel plans. Public transportation has seen the worst of this; companies like Metra and the CTA have had mechanical problems with train cars and have also had issues with switches on tracks becoming frozen and unable to switch train tracks for oncoming trains.

Both Metra and the CTA have reported train collisions due to brake failures on the trains, and many people who use public transportation have been late to work or have missed work which has resulted in the decline if worker productivity the past few months.

With all the force of plows on the roads, and with run-off water from melting ice, the number of potholes has increased, and the city can do a better job of fixing the roads as well as responding faster with salting and snow removal. This winter has been a harsh one, and we look forward to it being over.

Frosty has had little concern about melting this winter. As you can see, he has had a little trouble losing that holiday weight.

Photo by Lindsey Cantrell

BLAZER STAFF

Richard Maska
Co-Editor

Alex Fargue
Co-Editor

Brittney Andersen
Production Manager

Sarah Lake
Advertising Manager

Lindsey Cantrell
Photographer/Photo Editor

Ivan Morales
Copy Editor

Victoria Shiner
Copy Editor

Joel Raza
Sports Editor

Staff Writers:
Brondy Andersen, Elios Albert, Travis Olson, Pat O'Carroll, Jacqueline Biliot, Crystal Martinez, Tim Bunce.

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu,
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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Blazer
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Joliet, Illinois 60431

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Lyons explores perception of America through the eyes of the average Briton

BY RICHARD MASKA
Co-Editor

JJC history professor John Lyons spoke in early February on his latest book, "America in the British Imagination, 1945 to the Present" at a Brown Bag lecture at the Main Campus library.

The book examines the changes on the views and perceptions about American foreign policy, people, society and pop culture since the Second World War.

English born, Lyons has been teaching at JJC since 2000, but he had previously spent time as a welder before turning his focus on education, coming to the United States to study in Detroit before completing his doctorate at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Lyons pinpoints the Second World War as a pivotal time for mass cross-culturalization, as millions of American soldiers poured into English soil in preparation for an invasion of Europe.

The overcrowding often led to tensions many Britons to describe the GIs as "Overpaid, oversexed, and over here."

But it is this intermingling between American soldiers with ordinary British citizens, acted as a starting point for how the United States is perceived throughout the modern era, and the initial focus point for Lyons' book.

This is Lyons fourth publication, and his previous titles include, "Teachers and Reform: Chicago Public Education, 1929-70" and "Teaching History Online."

His lecture was attended by several members of the community, many holding a copy of a recent Herald News article that highlighted the recent publication and open talk at JJC.

He rooted the two nations' diplomatic policies in the wartime relationship Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill forged, meaning "Allegedly the two nations have had this 'special relationship' that America had with nobody else. Some of it based on cultural factors; history, culture, shared language, etc."

Because of this alliance, post-war polls and sentiment American foreign policy remained strong through much of the cold war, but began to waver significantly in the early 1980s.

"Now I know he's popular in America, or at least to a lot of people," Lyons said about President Ronald Reagan. "He would be popular in the former Soviet Block, but in terms of the rest of the world I'd say no."

"He comes across kind of like this cowboy figure who sees the world in a sort of very simple terms: black and white, us and them, good and bad," and not, "really knowledgeable about the rest of the world."

Both Reagan and Margaret Thatcher had aggressive foreign policies that led to tensions in Central America, staged invasions of both Grenada and the Falkland Islands, and both were unsympathetic to the Apartheid movement in South Africa.

His diplomatic relationship with Thatcher, still a polarizing figure to this day, heightened skepticism towards the United States.

America's influence on British culture and society was at its all -time high following World War II. Britain was "down on its knees, begging for help," said Lyons.

The war had nearly bankrupted the country, leading to the loss of its massive colonial empire. A third of its buildings were damaged or affected by Nazi bombing. Wartime rationing did not end until 1954.

The view that represented America came from American jazz and later rock n' roll, and significantly, Hollywood movies, particularly the drive-in movies in the 50s.

"If there is one thing that symbolizes America in the 50s, it is drive in movies and drive in everything," Lyons said. "You basically didn't have to get out of your car for anything--if there was rationing in Britain, there was abundance in America."

Compared to the relatively drab television in Britain, American TV shows of the 70s and 80s, such as "Hawaii Five-0," "Dallas," and "Starsky & Hutch," were more exciting and risky, but they also exposed American problems with crime and poverty in the inner city.

The portrayal of American society in "Dallas" was impactful because of the show's glamorous settings, smart writing, and attitudes towards money.

"From rock n' roll they (the British) get an image that is very modern, very loose, liberal in many ways; what we get from "Dallas" is greed … they pretty much kill each other for a buck."

At the start of the millennium, foreign policy again took center stage in British views of America, "If Reagan split the opinion of America, then Bush (George W.) unified it--against them," said Lyons.

While there was criticism of the Vietnam War and aggressive foreign policies in the 80s, opinions shifted against America as soon as British soldiers were fighting in Iraq.

The election of Barack Obama restored British confidence in American presidency because of his multi-lateral view on foreign policy, and efforts to end the war in Iraq.

For Barack Obama, the NSA spy scandals have hurt his reputation, but overall he has gained positive marks for his multilateral diplomacy. "He still is very popular," Lyons said. "I think once he leaves office in America, he could still get elected prime minister," Lyons said hypothetically.

Lyons tracked cultural impact on Britain up to present day, noting the cultural inundation European nations have had in music, and the overtaking of fish and chips as the most popular food item by the Indian dish Chicken Tikka Masala.

Since World War II, the two countries have had a unique relationship that Lyons says he will continue to explore by turning his attention on American views of Britain.

This and all of Lyons' publications can be purchased at Amazon.com, and those interested can stream a similar lecture he gave in January 2013 on the JJC website under "Brown Bag Lecture Series". His most recent talk will be posted soon.

Photo by Richard Maska

Professor John Lyons makes his point at a recent Brown Bag Luncheon on the relationship between Great Britain and the United States.

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Relationships

Real love is not abuse

BY CRYSTAL MARTINEZ

Staff Writer

Too often, instances of domestic abuse in couples are misidentified, taken lightly, or excused as just another aspect in an intimate relationship. Student counselor Sherri Morrow helped dispel these notions during a Feb. 12 presentation at the Center Bridge entitled, "Love is not Abuse."

Coordinated with assistance from Amy Sims of the Student Activities and Holistic Wellness, the lecture covered dating and the various forms of domestic abuse including physical, sexual, emotional, or any combination of the three.

The presentation began with the startling statistic that 30 percent of college students experienced violent behavior in a previous relationship, and 21 percent of students experience it with their current partner.

Abuse takes place at different times and forms and is determined by the energy, creativity, and desperation of the abuser.

There are various signs of identifying abuse; physical abuse may include aggressive behavior like pushing, kicking, or using a weapon. Sexual abuse constitutes behaviors such as unwanted touching, sexual manipulation or force.

Emotional abuse can be insults or intimidation towards their partner or others, and may include yelling, the use of verbal threats, and rhetoric designed to make the partner feel guilty and responsible for something they did not do.

Extreme jealousy, temper, or mood swings, constant put-downs, possessiveness and isolation can also be forms of emotional abuse.

Cyberbullying, identity theft, as well as monitoring and spying on communications an abused partner has with others, are all examples of a digital abuse, a phenomenon that has grown out of the advent of social media and instant communication.

According to Morrow, no matter the type of abuse, the effect on the victim is a feeling that no place is private or safe. Incidents in dating and domestic abuse are rarely one time occurrences, and too often they are a pattern of behaviors that continue for a long period of time.

Most victims do not report these incidents for a variety of reasons such as their lack of knowledge about available resources, mixed messages from the media, and pressure from peers or partner to be in a relationship.

For the most dangerous forms of abuse, such as physical or sexual, the victim should report to the police or other authority immediately. The sooner the report is filed, the easier it is for prosecutors to take immediate action.

If the abuse is something not as dangerous, such as emotional or digital, talking about it calmly to the partner are often positive steps towards resolving the issue.

In these cases, it is recommended that the couple take careful steps to either mend or end the relationship, and there are various options and resources available to seek help such as meeting with a counselor, therapist, support group or website.

For those unsure about themselves being abused, websites such as loveisrespect.org can offer guidance as well as advice on dating and other relationship issues.

Faculty member Sherri Morrow describes the various forms of abuse that can take place in a relationship, abuses that are often taken too lightly and excused. *Photo by Crystal Martinez*

Club showcase

Latinos Unidos active on campus for 20-plus years

BY CRYSTAL MARTINEZ

Staff Writer

The JJC Latinos Unidos student body club was originally formed in 1991, and works bring Latino-Americans, as well any other wishing to attend, together under a unified purpose.

Their mission: "Share history, culture and goals with one another through education and student leadership, while uniting the diverse cultures present at Joliet Junior College."

The club supports student's success in their career and in their community, all while learning about their distinct heritage.

Club coordinator and Latino Student Support Specialist, Martha Villegas, said that the club was created to create awareness of events with their heritage, and provide student leadership skills and opportunities.

They also focus on creating and incubating various social networks and opportunities that assist club members reach and succeed in their future careers.

As one of the more active clubs on campus, they routinely host several events each month, and February was no exception.

Earlier this month, the club held a bake sale to help raise funds for the club's Valentine's Day Dance as they did last year, complete with concessions, a photo booth, a raffle, and of course, dancing.

Around 80 people attended last year, and turnouts are expected to increase over the years.

The club is no stranger to school dances: last May they hosted the well-received 'Chicago Nights Dance.'

Villegas also stated that the club offers great volunteering opportunities, such as their Feb. 22 "Family Focus" event, where members help school and community members fill out citizenship forms, and offer assistance navigating the naturalization process.

The issue of undocumented immigrants has been at the forefront now as it has ever been with immigration overhaul stalled in the House of Representatives.

Last February, the Blazer interviewed the then, Latino Outreach and Retention Specialist Patricia Santoyo-Marin, who expressed concern over such legislation passing.

Instead she saw undocumented workers, many of them students, having to face work conditions that, "I learned in grammar school by reading The Jungle."

Plans are being made to host a Cinco de Mayo Scholarship Gala Fundraiser, with the intention of raising money for scholarships. Still in the preparation process, the event will have concessions and gift-basket raffles, but other ideas are still being thought of.

They are also applying for the "Award of Excellence" grant, which would help them to attend NCLR (National Council of La Raza) from July 19–22.

The conference will have civil rights organizations, civic engineers, giving people the opportunity to learn about issues affecting the community.

To learn more about upcoming events, you can visit their club page on the JJC website or their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/latinos.unidos.

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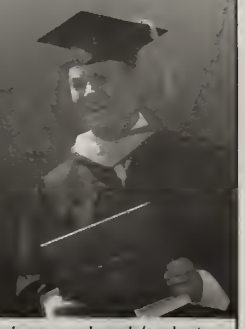

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Police Reports

Domestic incident

JJC Police issued Timothy Barfield, Jr., of Joliet, a notice of trespass to Centennial Common properties after Barfield became involved in a argument with resident Kianna S. Hall in the early morning hours of Jan. 28. During the incident, police said Hall threw Barfield's keys outside her apartment and destroyed two of his books. Hall was not charged, but will face student disciplinary action.

iPad theft

JJC Police have charged then-employee Joshua Obrakta of Braidwood with a notice of trespass to all JJC properties. According to police, Obrakta, a JJC custodian, admitted to stealing an iPad from the IT department at Main Campus on Jan. 14.

Suspended license

Joliet resident Wanda D. Lee was arrested and issued two citations by JJC Police after being charged with driving with a suspended license and parking on a Main Campus roadway on Jan. 14 at 4:08 p.m. Lee was scheduled to appear at the Will County Court House on Feb. 13.

Traffic accident

Kimberly Chadwick of Plainfield was charged with failure to yield after recently being involved in an accident at Main Campus's South Lot 5, police said. The incident took place on Feb. 7 at 10:06 a.m. Chadwick was issued a citation and is scheduled to appear at the Will County Court House on March 13.

News Briefs

Gain insight into transfer process

Students who plan on attending a four-year college or university after JJC have the opportunity to gain insight and knowledge that will help make the transfer process as smooth as possible by attending the Transfer Advising Information Session on March 11.

The session is designed prepare students before meeting with an Academic Advisor or Counselor and entering the transfer process.

The event will be located in room A-1061 at 12:30 p.m. For further information visit the JJC website or contact Student Services.

North Campus shutdown

Following the temporary shutdown of JJC's Romeoville North Campus on the morning of Feb. 13, more is now known about the nearby shooting incident that led to the death of a 15-year old girl, and caused injuries to the mother.

According to the Herald News, Romeoville police arrested Erick M. Maya, of Cicero, who is being held for two counts of attempted murder, aggravated battery with a firearm and unlawful use of a firearm, after he allegedly opening fire on Briana Valle and her mother while they were parked in their driveway.

Although the incident occurred almost two miles away from campus, the ensuing manhunt caused several area schools, including JJC's Romeoville Campus, to enact a "soft shutdown" as a precautionary measure.

Initially there was some confusion being raised at JJC by students and parents who mistakenly thought the shooting occurred at the Romeoville Campus, but the shutdown was issued as a precautionary measure.

JJC to highlight sustainability

JJC's Technical Department will host free showings of the movies *Carbon Nation,* Feb. 26, and *Blue Gold,* March 26, at the T-Building Conference Center at Main Campus.

Marriage equality forum set

Recent legislation for marriage equality will be discussed at the Main Campus Center Bridge on March 10 and will feature guest speaker Patty Dillon of the advocacy group Equality Illinois.

As Director of Field Organizing for Equality Illinois, Dillon will use the open forum event to educate the public and assist same-sex couples with understanding their state and federal rights under the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, and will also clarify some misnomers about the new law

Gov. Pat Quinn signed the off on the hill last November.

The law guarantees the same rights and benefits that heterosexual marriages confer. The event is sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and Holistic Wellness and the Safe Zone Ally Program. The event will take place at 6 p.m., and is open to the general public.

Contact Amy Sims, asims@jjc.edu,with questions.

'Grease Lightnin' served up by Fine Arts Dept.

By Jacqueline Bilot

Staff Writer

Picture being bored walking through school, and suddenly deciding to burst into song and dance, with the rest of the student body joining in for a Glee-esque flash performance at the cafeteria.

While it sounds idyllic, the world does not include such personal dancers and singers to grease up the works in life, so instead one can enjoy the thrill of going to the JJC Fine Arts Department's performance of Grease.

"We all have this sort of nostalgic view of our high school years. Grease plays into that and reminds us of just how overwhelming and powerful something can seem to someone in his or her teen years," director and Fine Arts Prof. Zach Bloomfield said in a recent interview.

The play will run from Feb. 27 through March 2, and will include matinees on the March 1-2.

Set in the 1950's, the play centers on two teenagers from very different sides of the schoolyard yet fall in love after a summer spent together.

Sandy Dumbrowski, played by Rielly Sanders, is a quiet girl with a sweet temperament, and has never done anything worthy of detention, while Alvah Bickner IX, as Danny Zuko, is a slick-haired, leather jacket wearing cool kid.

They both love each other, but also realize the differences between each other must be reconciled for their relationship to work, and the plot tests whether they are willing to make that compromise.

Originally a play, it was made into the 1970s movie where most know it from now.

While John Travolta and Olivia Newton John made the film a classic, the fine arts department has made it possible to view the musical the way it was originally intended.

The cast makes the play come to life with some of our favorite characters; Rizzo, played by Deirdre Nitsche, and Kenickie, played by Stevie DelReal, as well as the rest of the 'Pink Ladies' and 'T-Birds' in all.

Many of signature songs such as "Summer Nights," "Greased Lightnin," and "Beauty School Dropout," have become enormously popular around the world since the play's first release.

The performances will be held in the Fine Arts Theater, K-1002, and tickets are priced at $8 for the General Public, $3 for Students, and $5 for Senior Citizens and Faculty/Staff.

Auto show's electric pulse

Latest tech on display from twin turbos to 3-cylinder sports cars

By Travis Olson

Staff Writer

The longest running auto show in history got underway this month as the 113th annual Chicago Auto Show made its week long stay McCormick Place.

Top automotive manufactures from around the world were on hand to showcase their latest market offerings, and display the futuristic concepts of tomorrow's automobiles.

BMW made their appearance by showing off their new hybrid electric sports car, the i8. It utilizes a duel motor system with the gas powered three-cylinder TwinPower Turbo, capable of outputting 231 horsepower, and the 170 horsepower eDrive Output.

The i8 becomes a true sports car as it combines the two motors, making the vehicle capable of 155 mph.

Driving the car in electric mode will run out of charge in 22 miles, but the gasoline engine will back up the interruption of power. Overall the engine alone can get 94 mpg.

Charging the battery takes an hour and a half on fast charge, and three and half hours standard household 120 volt socket.

The car is expected to be made this year; however no price has been reported.

BMW also has a new family sedan called the M6 Gran Coupe. The seven-speed automatic was installed to improve fuel economy as well as protect it from high speed engine wear, and with four doors and a leather interior it designed for high-speed journeys.

Driver conveniences include Blue-Tooth, voice command and on-board navigation. BMW's Night Vision cameras are fitted up front, displaying the road ahead on a screen in the driver dash cluster, with or without the headlights on.

Chevrolet made a splash with their new 2015 Z06 Corvette; updated, strengthened, and tuned to go faster.

"The car was developed in the mode of their LeMons race car, the C7.R, said Chevrolet rep. Sahar McRay.

"Both cars have advanced chassis architecture, aero dynamic strategies, and performance technology."

The new engine that has direct injection, variable valve timing, and active fuel management, an advanced combustion system, "It will be the most aero dynamic, with the most down-force, and most fuel efficient Corvette," McRay said.

The revamped frame is all aluminum, making it 60 percent stiffer. The Z06's open-hood frame marks the first time the model features a removable top panel.

"Every change you can see done to the exterior of the car has a function. The mesh up front is designed to have the most amount of airflow to the intercooler and heat exchanger for the supercharger."

The Mitsubishi Mirage is a five-seat hatchback economically priced under $20,000, capable of 42 mpg on highways.

The car raises the bar on driver protection and innovation. With the use of Mitsubishi's Reinforced Impact Safety Evolution, crumple zones in the frame's design send the energy caused by a collision away from the car's passengers.

The Mirage has side-impact door beams to improve crash safety, and a total of seven airbags using two for the driver side knee.

The base model starts at $12,995, and comes with a 10-year warrantee.

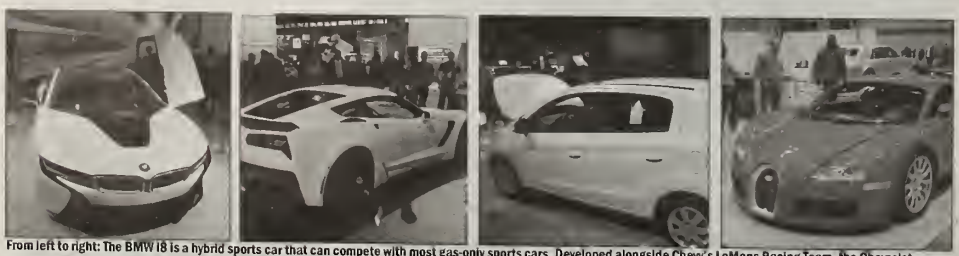
As a modern continuation of the E-Type, Jaguar has launched the new F-Type convertible, and a coupe model with a much larger rear trunk.

"You can fit two golf bags in the coupe's trunk, instead of one in the convertible car, so your friends can have a round of golf with you," said Jacob Thompson of Jaguar, "not to mention have fun at the track after,"

The convertibles are available with three different engines, two separate supercharged V6 engines, and a supercharged V8. The V6 cars have dual exhaust tips center behind the car like the Series 1 E-Type of the early sixties. The V8s have a quadruple exhaust for extra noise.

All come with ZF eight-speed transmission to improve fuel economy and reduce emissions, all are capable of speeds over 160 mph, and come to a faster stop than previous XK sports cars due to re-engineered brakes, and all cars can fit four people.

The base F-Type coupe starts at $65,000 and the convertible at $69,000. But as options and packages are added, the price can climb into six digit figures.



From left to right: The BMW I8 is a hybrid sports car that can compete with most gas-only sports cars. Developed alongside Chevy's LeMons Racing Team, the Chevrolet Corvette Z06 has the most functional aerodynamic body ever made for a Corvette. The Mitsubishi Mirage has seven airbags and several other standard safety amenities. The Jaguar F-Type Coupe has room for the kids and the trunk space for yours and your buddy's golf bag for an outing at the links.

Photos by Travis Olsen

Get your pizza fix twice at 2-fers

BY TIM BUNCE

Staff Writer

Does it get any better that free pizza and wi-fi?

2-fers, located in Minooka at the corner of Ridge and Mondaminn, is a pizza-pub that offers just that with buy one-get one pizzas every day of the week, daily drink specials, and a low-key, Blackhawks-centric atmosphere that fits the bill of any cash strapped college student.

"We want a fun place where people can come out and have a great time with friends and family, and keep it affordable," said Amanda Cappellini, a longtime manager at the restaurant.

On their three year anniversary in November 2013, Cappellini told me the restaurant's concept came from another partner who saw a similarly styled place in Downers Grove.

At 2-fers, one has all the regular pizza options topped with cheese, pepperoni, sausage or vegetables, but it is well worth the venture to delve into their specialty pizzas.

Considering the winter we've been having, the Hawaiian's loading of Canadian bacon, pineapple and barbecue sauce may prove a perfect remedy for the winter blues.

From the other side of the world comes their Greek inspired pizza, consisting of chicken, tomato, cucumber, feta cheese and olives.

One unique standout is the Jamaican Jerk Chicken Pizza, with chicken, onions, and peppers, but it's the jerk sauce that makes the dish, resembling barbecue pizza but with a Caribbean kick.

There is a great burger selection too, with a variety of creative combinations beyond the 'standard' burger we're all used to.

I sampled two different burgers on my visit; the first was the Breakfast Club Burger, which has bacon, cheddar, and mayo, topped with a fried egg. Needless to say, the combination had me skeptical, but I was pleasantly surprised at how awesome it tasted.

As I waited for round two, Cappellini gave me the rundown on how their menu comes to life.

The pizza dough is all hand rolled, and the vegetables cut fresh daily and 90 percent of the menu is made from scratch

None of their food is ever frozen, and the ground beef for the burgers is packed together when ordered.

My next offering was the Yuck Burger. Named for its use of peanut butter along with bacon and lettuce, it seemed gross, but it proved to be delicious as well.

Other options include the Zeus burger, which mirrors the Greek pizza in its use of toppings, and the Texan Burger comes with barbecue sauce and frizzled onions.

For those who like some spice in their bite, the Diablo Burger is topped with chipotle, grilled jalapeno peppers, pico de gallo, sour cream and pepper jack cheese.

The rest of the menu is resembles a pub style restaurant with a variety of salads, wraps and other sandwiches, served with fries, baked potatoes and homemade chips on the side.

One popular rarity offered is their 'Build-Your-Own' Mac and Cheese option, where customization is taken to a whole new level.

While everyday features a new drink special, they consider themselves the area's Blackhawks bar by offering $5 pitchers to accompany their buy one-get one pizza.

Other food specials include Tuesday's $1 burger, and $6.95 all you can eat buffet Sundays with pizza, salad and pasta.

If you're looking for a fun place to come with friends or family, then 2-fers is the place to be. It is a relaxing atmosphere where you come in and seat yourself. If you have a group project for a class, buy one get one free pizza with free wi-fi is quite a deal.

2-fers in Minooka has a friendly low-key atmosphere.

Photo by Tim Bunce

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Sonia Pedapati
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Jacob Scott
At Elmhurst it's easy to get involved at a high level. I was news editor for the newspaper, I have an internship, and I'm a fellow with the Interfaith Youth Core. Regular people can make a real difference here.

Elmhurst College

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Students celebrate Harlem Renaissance

From left, Isaac Jensen, Jaylen Dortch, Trey Gardner and Brandon Jackson put their voices together at the Harlem Nights celebration on Feb. 13 on the Main Campus Bridge.

Cha'Nequa Stevens channels her inner Ella Fitzgerald with a scat jazz performance that brought the house down.

Photos by Lindsey Cantrell

BY RICHARD MASKA
CO-EDITOR

In recognition of African American History Month, students and staff gathered on the Center Bridge to celebrate the works and achievements produced during the Harlem Renaissance.

The Feb. 13 event offered students an open-mic chance to express their singing talent with the backing of the musical group, The New Face of Soul.

Randy Jackson of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Brother to Brother Club, helped organize the event, and saw it as a chance to highlight one of the more prolific artistic periods in American history.

"The Harlem Renaissance is a period of cultural exploration for African Americans, at a time when they were perceived as ignorant and not able to produce knowledge," said Jackson, "This is really a boom of showing the world of what were capable of doing."

Informational posters about Langston Hughes, Ella Fitzgerald, C.W. Dubois and other figures were on display to help showcase the depth and variety of art produced during the period.

"I think a lot of times students don't understand our contribution to world of art, authorship, and movies," said Jackson.

"This is an opportunity to showcase that, to celebrate that, and give them an opportunity to express themselves."

In hosting Harlem nights, Jackson hoped to inspire and encourage students to, "put forth new forms of artistic expression that's going to add to the cultural body of America"

Some have argues that this cultural body has suffered because African Americans have not been immersed in their history enough, and do not fully understand or utilize the full range and capacity of their talents.

"Certainly there's a disconnect, but I don't think [artistic expression] lacking," Jackson said, "African Americans are certainly putting out new forms of communication, especially in music where they're pioneering a lot of new sounds."

"We still are lacking a little bit in authorship and intellectual knowledge as much as we used to," Jackson said about a potential disparity between African Americans and their understanding of history, especially about the variety in their artistic mediums.

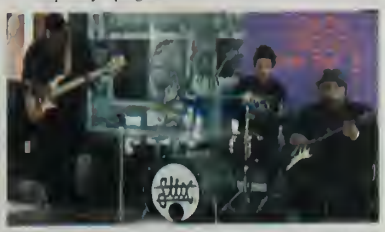
"Hopefully a program like this will get students to realize there are more avenues of expression."

One student, Cha'Nequa Stevens, took the stage and performed a skat-jazz inspired number that drove the crowd wild with enthusiastic cheers.

After his own rendition, Antonio Smith said he was not nervous, "I'm a singer and dancer, so I'm on stage a lot."

With performances like these, Jackson hopes that students will take note of their ancestors and relatives and their accomplishments and achievements.

"They were able to contribute because they dared; they dared to dream and to put this information out."



The New Face of Soul, Terrence Lee on bass, Greg Landfair Jr. on drums and Greg Landfair Sr. on guitar, performed and also provided accompaniment for other artists.

Robocop reboot

Remake succeeds where others fail

BY JOEL ROZA

Staff Writer

One of my favorite movies growing up was Robocop and Robocop 2. I grew up with those films and idolized them (I hated and still hate Robocop 3).

I mimicked the sound his feet made, that whole gun-twirling trick, and his signature catch-phrases from age five to probably some embarrassing age that I won't disclose. That being said, a Robocop reboot has always felt inevitable, yet scary.

The beauty of the original film, directed by Paul Verhoeven, is that it plays on what Verhoeven thought American living was turning into – a desensitized public cast out in a cesspool of crime and corruption. He played on our media's sensationalism and, in many ways, predicted what our media would become.

It was funny and cynical, and it portrayed the one angle Americans relate to more than any other – the individual against the mass; in this case, Alex Murphy vs. Omni Consumer Products (OCP).

So how does the 2014 version hold up? Quite well, actually.

My biggest fear with Jose Padilha's re-imagining was that it would miss the mark in terms of social commentary and fitting Robocop's story into that narrative.

That fear was extinguished pretty much from the opening scene of American-made robots patrolling the streets of 2028 Tehran, while Fox News look-alike "The Novak Element" with Samuel L. Jackson as Pat Novak, the show's host and the 'moral-checker' of this modern-day media, broadcast the happenings live on TV.

The scene is an entirely believable spot for America to be in come 2028, so the film checks out there. The story of Alex Murphy is another obstacle Padilha had to face.

In any review of this film, it is impossible to resist comparisons.

While Padilha does a fantastic job of changing around names (and genders), consolidating roles and creating new roles from the old movies, there was no getting around the role of Alex Murphy.

In the old film, he's a newly transferred cop, paired together with Nancy Allen's "Louis" and murdered on the first day on the job. We never really get to know his family, aside from flashbacks and an awkward exchange in the second film, so his past life seems really punctuated. In this film, there's a stronger feel for who he was as a husband, a father and a cop. The narrative sort of creates the man first, lets him breathe and move around, and then his life as he knows it ends.

Watching Alex Murphy (Joel Kinnaman) come to grips as Robocop is also a revelation of this film. In the original, he wakes up, doesn't know who he is, and obeys OCP for a good chunk of the film. His memories are intact, but he doesn't know what they are at first, or what they mean. His discovery of self has to be helped along by his old partner and old nemeses.

In this film, he knows from the moment he awakens that he's Alex Murphy – it's the discovery that there isn't much left of Alex Murphy that distorts and mixes him up and it wasn't a better way to do it so much as it was an effective, yet different way of doing it. It fit this film.

The role of Dr. Dennett Norton, played by Gary Oldman, was one of the stronger characters of this film, and combined the three no-name doctors that played caretaker roles in the first three Robocop films. Michael Keaton was fantastic as Raymond Sellers, CEO of multinational conglomerate OCP.

Unlike the first films, there's no mistaking that OCP is in on this for themselves. Aside from Dr. Norton and his assistant, Jae Kim (Aimee Garcia), there is no redeeming quality for OCP. They're some bad dudes and dudettes.

Overall, this film was right in the grey area of what I expected. I had assumed a loss of a lot of the intangibles that made up that first, great Robocop film and I was pleasantly surprised to see them not only intact, but pushed into a realistic future.

The film's shortcoming is that it loses a lot of the 'in-the-moment' characteristics for Alex Murphy/Robocop. In the first films, it's like we're "Keeping Up with the RoboCop," we saw a lot of his thoughts, and we don't really follow too many peripheral characters. It leaves holes in the plot, but it provides an entertaining narrative.

In the film, we follow a lot of people involved in this Robocop thing, and it removes his experiences from our view. There's some really cool battle scenes, and there's some CGI-centric ones, too. It's hard to complain when a film quiets your largest fears, so a loss of something is to be expected.

This wasn't a better film than the 1987 version, but it will stand on its own. There's a sense of finality to this one. It was an entertaining reimagining of a cult classic, and Padilha did himself some favors by exceeding expectations, but it doesn't have the staying power.

Perhaps it's that 'in-the-moment' thing that's missing, or perhaps our entertainment is already littered with social commentary (though I loved the "Novak Element"). It'll bring in a little money, it'll come out on DVD and Blu-ray, and it'll be replayed on HBO, that will be it.

One and done. It was a nice, effective shot and it did well. By today's standards, that may be all you can ask.

So, enjoy the film, and "thank you for your cooperation."

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Dreamworks builds a box office smash with 'The Lego Movie'

BY PATRICK O' CARROLL

Staff Writer

What might possibly be the best family movie of the year has been dominating ticket sales since its release.

Boxofficemojo.com reports The Lego Movie having a gross income of over $50 million just from the weekend of Feb. 14-16, and the total gross income has totaled in over a whopping $130 million, and is just one more reason why you should go out to see it if you have not already.

While it centers on everyone's favorite childhood building blocks, but the film has something for both kids and adults.

It contains the slapstick humor kids can't get enough of and witty innuendos that adults will chuckle over.

Even better than the comedy throughout the film is the clever use of animation which resembles stop motion techniques, which was done because the creators wanted the movie to seem like it was really Legos moving about instead of compromising Lego nostalgia with the fluid motion of CGI animation.

The film follows a common nobody named Emmet, who is voiced by Chris Pratt, and is given the task of saving the Lego universe from the evil will of President Business, played by Will Ferrell.

Along the way he meets a cornucopia of hilarious and astounding characters like Vitruvius, Batman, Wyldstyle and many others.

While this film is mostly about the animation and visual spectacle, one thing that deserves mention is the great work done by the voice actors, such as Morgan Freeman as Vitruvius, an old wizard who is part of the race of Master Builders.

Master Builders are certain Lego people who can build anything from pieces around them without having to follow the instructions like the rest of the Lego population.

Freeman does incredible in this role as the wise man, generating a blend of slapstick and witty comedy through of his character's knowledge as well as comical blindness.

Liam Neeson is another noteworthy actor deserving of mention because he breaks free from his serious ass-kickery roles in previous films like Taken, The Grey and Darkman.

Neeson plays Bad Cop/Good Cop who is President Businesses head of security and Lego police in the town of Bricksburg.

Nesson's character is fantastic because he generates a lot of comedy via a chair that always seems to be around him to kick when he is furious, and doubly entertaining in his role as good cop/bad cop with his complete turnaround from serious to happy and caring.

This is the best movie I've seen this year and I reserve high doubts that it can be topped by any other family film to be released.

The Lego Movie gets a solid five stars out of five; from the comedic acting to the stunning visual effects there wasn't one thing I didn't like about this movie.

So cure your winter blues and treat yourself to this star-studded feature; then walk back in and see it again, because you'll likely need it.

The Lego Movie gains high marks its humor and animation.

Courtesy of newsworks.org

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Doing the 'Time Warp' at Hollywood Boulevard

Rocky Horror still draws midnight crowds

BY PATRICK O' CARROLL

Staff Writer

When it comes to a trip to the movies I am always excited for what I'm going to see, but until a few years back it was always the same old story: Get your tickets, find a seat, sit down in the seat, turn the cell phone off, shut up and watch the movie.

This changed in 2011 when my sister and her friends clued me in to midnight showings of The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Hollywood Boulevard Cinema, in Woodridge; I was sold immediately.

I first saw the film at the age of ten on an old VHS tape, and have since been nuts about it, despite absolutely despising all other musicals.

There was something different about this one though, anyone who has seen the film knows exactly what I am talking about, and I mean the actual film, not Glee's god-awful, abominable adaptation.

For those who have not seen the androgynous rock n' roll musical centering around one transvestite-transsexual-mad scientist from Transsexual-Transylvania's quest to create a superior man, aka Frankenstein (Frank-N-Furter in this case), then I hope my sum-up was adequate.

When I went that fateful midnight in 2011 I had some idea what I was in for. I figured I'd see audience members dressed as characters in the film and we would see a cast pantomime the movie while we watched and would chow down on some appetizers.

I was half right: the other half was filled with audience members buoyantly shouting obscenities at the screen and throwing props around the room at certain intervals in the movie.

After that night I vowed to make it to a show at least once a year if not more often.

About a month back I went up there and recently I had an impromptu interview with Ruth, of the members of Completely Crazy, a group of dancers and actors that perform the show at Hollywood Boulevard.

The troupe has been doing this since 1990 at various theaters around Chicago-land, and started performing at Hollywood Boulevard and has called the place home since 2004.

When I asked "Why Rocky Horror," Ruth fired back, "Why not? Seriously, as Richard O'Brien (the film's creator), once said, 'it's a guaranteed party every Saturday night!'"

"We like wearing stockings and the songs are super!"

I had wondered how it became so profane and Ruth enlightened me that "The first audience line shouted was 'Buy an umbrella you cheap b***h!' and it's gone downhill from there"

Part of your first viewing experience is the virgin ritual; which I won't go into detail about it, so as not to ruin the surprise, but I was curious myself as to how it came about.

"We've always played games with the virgins…it's our way of welcoming people to our little dysfunctional family," said Ruth.

You can catch the Completely Crazy cast every Saturday at midnight at the Boulevard for eight dollars, one mandatory purchase from the dinner menu from the theater's restaurant.

Additional information can be found about Completely Crazy on their facebook page and at atriptothemovies.com.

The Rocky Horror performance troupe, Completely Crazy, has been acting out the musical since 2000.

Courtesy of Completely

Deep Cuts

The Sword strikes gold with *Gods of the Earth*

BY JOEL ROZA
Staff Writer

It is difficult to pinpoint when indie-rock became so… mainstream, but the undisputed champions of indie-metal in 2008 were Austin, TX luminaries, The Sword.

Comprised of guitarist/vocalist J.D. Cronise, guitarist Kyle Shutt, bassist Bryan Richie, and then-drummer Trivett Wingo, The Sword followed up their 2006 debut, Age of Winters, with a harder-edged metal majesty that makes Gods of the Earth, an unstoppable riff monster.

Many liken the band's sound to early Black Sabbath, but the lyrical content feels like Dio-era Sabbath, evoking images of medieval warfare with music that would easily accompany any battle scene from films like "Gladiator," or "300."

While Cronise's voice is one that seems just good enough, it is perfect for this job. He won't be doing any Iron Maiden or Dio covers anytime soon, though he has done a stand-up covering ZZ Top's "Cheap Sunglasses."

Thus far, Gods of the Earth is the seminal Sword record. For sure, it's a riff factory – but it has so many of the band's most memorable moments thus far.

Starting off with the instrumental "The Sundering," the band segue ways right into the gigantic "Frost-Giant's Daughter," before hitting my personal favorite, "How Heavy This Axe."

At 3:06, "Axe" is one is the third shortest song on the album, but with an epic feel that captures your attention, one is left wishing it were longer.

I think the Norse God Thor would jam out to it. I really do.

Another favorite is the relentlessly heavy "Maiden, Mother, and Crone," which is catchy both vocally and musically.

That's weird to say because "catchy" usually equals "crap" in most metal people's minds, but when I tell you this is some catchy stuff, just take it as a good thing.

Trust me. I'm a doctor. Well, I stayed at some Holiday Inn Expresses in my day.

The band itself makes you think you're listening to cavemen play metal for the first time. It's very primitive sounding, with every song built around the riff, the drums hammering away with constant cymbal abuse, and the production intentionally done in a way that sounds like something you'd hear from 1971.

The resulting ambiance in this album makes it feel older than it is as the band avoids the pitfalls of today's metal clichés – non-stop double bass, screaming vocals, or relentless solos that carry on into self-indulgence. It feels musical without getting carried away.

The band is always right on the nuggets, but they do it in a way that captures the true spirit of metal. Whether you label it stoner metal, indie metal, or some other sub-genre, it's metal the way it's originally constructed.

If I can sing praise to J.D. Cronise once more, his willingness to step back and let long stretches of music carry the listener away is awesome. Certainly he has the capacity to sing with a melodic sense, but this band, and this album is nothing without the sum of its parts working in concert the way they do.

This is a monster of a record, simply put. Go out and get it. Order it on Amazon or eBay, or at the band's website, www.swordofdoom.com. You'll thank me.

Other notable releases from The Sword: Age of Winters (2006), Warp Riders (2010), and Apocryphon (2012)

Courtesy of swordofdoom.com

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Spring training report

Cubs and White Sox hope to take strides forward in 2014

Both teams look to leave 2013 embarrassment behind; see hope on the horizon

BY JOEL ROZA
Sports Editor

Chicago White Sox

Expecting to contend in 2013 after a close-call in 2012, the White Sox's offense collapsed, and led to a 63-99 record; their worst since 1970.

Under the stewardship of longtime GM, now-team president Kenny Williams, and second-year GM Rick Hahn, the Sox are looking at a franchise in flux – caught between their reeently glorious past (2005 wasn't all that long ago,) and their uncertain future.

The story for the Sox is simple – infuse youth and hoping they grow in time to reward ace pitcher Chris Sale with something other than a July trade to a real contender.

Hahn began the roster overhaul with in-season trades of outfielder Alex Rios and right-hander Jake Peavy, trades that netted the team much-needed organizational depth, as well as top-tier talent, such as speedy utility-man Leury Garcia and outfielder Avisail Garcia.

Franchise ieon Paul Konerko opted to return for one more season in hopes of helping the franchise forge a new identity before he steps off into the sunset. His 2013 season was a forgettable one, showing the veteran struggling with a .244 avg. and only 12 homers and 54 RBIs in 126 games.

While Konerko's return is more of a symbolic one than an impactful one, the addition of Cuban slugger Juan Abreu is expected to add punch to a lineup that could use more of it. After producing a .344/.479/.604 line in Cuba last season with a 19 dingers, it'll be fun to see how he adjusts to the American game.

The youth that the Sox have hubbling up to the major league surface this season have a chance to win their spot on the team outright during spring training.

Marcus Semien will have to hope, but probably not too hard, that Gordon Beckham exhausts the organization's patience (we should probably know if he's a bust or not after six years), while catcher Tyler Flowers will have to hold on for dear life as Josh Phegley and Rule 5 pick Adrien Nieto take aim for the general's seat.

On the staff, the Sox are in good hands with Sale and Jose Quintana going 1-2. A rebound for John Danks from his putrid 4-14 eampaign would also be a huge win for the franchise. Youngster Erik Johnson will make his ease for the fourth rotation spot, while fireballer Felipe Paulino will try to find a home as the team's fifth starter, a role he can more than carry, as proven by his year and half with the Royals in 2011 and 2012.

So, if you're a White Sox fan – what do you look for? A power surge will be necessary if the Sox want to make this rebuilding phase a short-lived one. Fans have to hope that guys like Connor Gillaspie, Tyler Flowers, and Gordon Beckham are gracefully shoved out of the way by talented prospects, preferably by trade (to bring in more talent, of course). Third baseman Matt Davidson, whom the Sox acquired in exchange for eloser Addison Reed this winter, has to be able to push Gillaspie out, sooner rather than later. The more Gillaspie lingers, the more worried fans should be.

Also watch the closer's role. After Reed's departure, Nate Jones was pretty bad at it (0 for 4), but his stuff will earn him a shot at it this spring, along with righty Daniel Webh and perhaps veteran Matt Lindstrom.

On the farm, keep watching outfielder Courtney Hawkins as he tries to improve upon his less-than-stellar showing in the Carolina League last season with Class-A Winston-Salem.

Chicago Cubs

After a disastrous 2013 season that saw young stalwarts and free-agent signings fall to the wayside, team president Theo Epstein and general manager Jed Hoyer cleaned house.

It started with the unloading of RHP Scott Feldman to Baltimore, extended to the big Matt Garza trade with Texas a couple weeks later, and peaked with the trade of Alfonso Soriano and the sad remnants of his titanic eight-year, $136 million deal to the Yankees right before the trade deadline.

The Cubs finished the season 66-96, only five games better than 2012.

In the off-season, Epstein and Hoyer jettisoned manager Dale Sveum and hired San Diego Padres bench coach Rick Renteria as the team's skipper. Renteria will have his agenda jam-packed in his first season as he tries to get the Cubs' future back on track.

Last year, poor seasons from Starlin Castro, Anthony Rizzo, Jeff Samardzija, and free-agent signee Edwin Jackson sent the Cubs into a tailspin that threatens to derail an expensive rebuilding movement that has just got off the ground.

Most concerning was Castro's puzzling loss of focus and sharp drop in plate discipline, leading to a humbling .245/.284/.347 line, and embarrassing mistakes in the liels.

Rizzo, who was signed to a seven-year, $41 million extension in May of last year, barely registered as a threat as the season wore on, producing a flimsy .233/.323/.419 line, with 23 homers and 80 RBIs. His inahility to hit left-handed pitching is also an alarm sounding in the Cubs clubhouse, and something to watch for in 2014.

On the staff, while Samardzija wasn't awful in going 8-13 with a 4.34 ERA, he did cough up an astronomical 25 home runs. While he remains a prime trade target going into 2014, he won't fetch much of a package if he keeps handing out souvenirs to fans in fair territory.

Same can be said of Edwin Jackson, though that 18-loss mess from 2013 is all on Epstein and Hoyer. Because anytime a renowned innings-eating, walk-happy, journeyman who once walked eight hitters enroute to a no-hitter is available, you just have to hand him a four-year, $52 million deal. It's not that Jackson is a bad pitcher – he's not. However, he has an awful hard time finding the strike-zone consistently, and that can lead to bad things. Like an 8-18 record with a 4.98 ERA.

If you're a Cubs fan, you may be asking – "what do I have to look forward to this season?"

Good question. I'll say this – if you're looking for a turnaround and playoff contention in the NL Central, than I have a bridge to sell you. No team with Nate Schierholtz, Luis Valbuena, Darwin Barney, and Ryan Sweeney in their starting lineup is going anywhere fast.

But hold your head up, Cubs fan – if Rizzo can cut the strikeouts down just a little, and pretend he has a clue against southpaws; he might just be the player the Cubs envisioned.

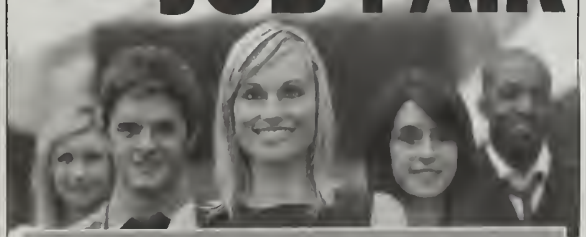
Same goes for Starlin Castro. But his problem is to remember that when he's in the field of play, he does not have the right to doze off just because some guy in the stands along the third base line is doing it.

In short, the Cubs need the pillars of their youth movement Rizzo, Castro, Junior Lake, Chris Rusin to improve dramatically, for Welington Castillo to stay right where he is, and for free agent signees such as closer Jose Veras and lefty Wesley Wright to fortify one of baseball's worst bullpens.

Keep an eye out for third base prospect Mike Olt (fresh off an awful 2013 season in Triple-A for Texas and Chicago), and Rule 5 selection, 25-year-old RHP Hector Rondon.

Find your next career!

15th Annual Joliet Regional **JOB FAIR**



Friday, April 11, 2014 • 1-4 p.m.

Joliet Junior College Main Campus
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JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE 1901

For more information and to register, visit **www.jjc.edu/jobfair** or call **(815) 280-1JOB** (1562)

Womens basketball from page 1

pulled tendon in her foot. In all, the Lady Wolves faced a very tough challenge that was too much for the young roster to handle.

"Despite the fact that we lost, I still saw my team working hard, showing effort and playing to the final whistle, and that's all I could ever really ask of my team," said head coach Shaun Sanderson.

"With the injuries we were dealing with, it was pretty tough, but we did give some of our less experienced players a chance for some valuable game time."

Though this game was one to forget, it cannot be seen as a generalization for the whole season. The Lady Wolves were able to bounce back from a difficult 0-3 start early on in the year and make the season worth playing.

They went 5-5 over their next 10 games which brought them some success just before the beginning of conference play.

North Central Conference play began with the Wolves putting together a complete beat down on Harper College with a final score of 62-38 on Jan. 8.

They would alternate wins and losses through the next 10 conference games all leading up to the most recent match-up with Rock Valley College.

Throughout the season, the Wolves roster has made a huge impact on every game they've played. Besides Campbell, who seemingly can take a game over at will, there are others who gave their play just as much dedication.

> "... they've faced every challenge put in front of them and have shown a lot of work ethic."
> --Shaun Sanderson

Guard Samantha Wurtz was a frightening perimeter threat for opposing defenses. Guard Kaulitral Averhart was also a scoring threat as she put together numerous double-digit scoring performances despite dealing with nagging injuries, just as a few other players did.

"Overall, I've been very impressed with the way my players have performed this year. They're mostly freshmen, and they had to play a tough schedule early on, but they've faced every challenge put in front of them and have shown a lot of work ethic," mentioned Sanderson.

With the post-season just around the corner, one should expect the Lady Wolves to be on the top of their game. They'll play in the Region IV tournament on Feb. 25 and will look to earn themselves a championship.

Before the season even started, Sanderson put lots of emphasis on the huge importance of the post-season and he'll express that emphasis to his team as they prepare for it.

"With this young team, I want to make sure that we're ready for the playoffs, which I know they will be because we understand it's like a new season and anything can happen."

Since the season is in a way changing, to a win-or-go-home mentality, some may think a new approach may be taken; however, Sanderson couldn't disagree more.

"We're going to keep everything the same. We feel very comfortable with the way things are right now. We have a chip on our shoulder and we'll rise to this next challenge, we've done it all year long with the injuries and setbacks, so I feel like there's no real need to change anything."

It's obvious that the Lady Wolves have the heart and desire to be competitive, as they have been all season long. Now they'll have to translate that to the post-season.

Every game can teach a team a lesson, and that is even more so after a loss. With all the chances they've had to test themselves, the Lady Wolves will now try to adjust and bounce back when it matters the most.

JJC Outdoor Outlook

Will County area fishing report

BY RICHARD MASKA

Co-Editor

Share your photos!

For the avid angler, or the frequent hunter; giving you the latest fishing and hunting reports, trends, and tips for all the hottest spots from our neck of the woods.

Send pictures of your recent successes, or tell us your own reports, winning strategies and high-tales to jjc.blazermail.edu, or find us on Facebook.

Made possible by the help of Angelo's Bait Shop, the Will County Forest Preserve and reader contributions, to make sure that no time spent outdoors is time wasted.

We advocate catch and release and sustainable hunting and fishing that promotes a healthy ecosystem for generations to come.

Mazonia and the strip mine lakes: Bluegill and crappie have in good numbers and small bass have been landed out of Mazonia's north unit using chartreuse and white colored moon jigs tipped with wax-worms.

According to reports, fish have been staging near breaklines and drop-offs ten feet water, but are constantly on the move, and suspended in about five to six feet of water near good weed cover.

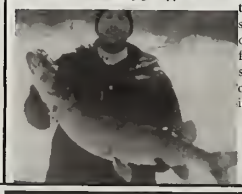
Mike Gorman of Angelo's Bait Shop in Wilmington has had enormous success catching northern pike on minnows and suckers on stationary tip-up rigs.

Shabbona Lake: Staying mobile and concentrating on brush piles, tree stumps, and fish cribs will yield good numbers of crappie, and a sporadic bluegill bite. Smaller more finesse jobs with a single wax worm or soft-plastic spike have worked for both.

Fox Chain O'Lakes: Good numbers of crappies can be found in 8 to 13 feet on Petite and Marie Lakes while bluegill can be found in deeper waters from 9 to12 feet.

Northern pike have been found in shallow waters near weed cover using large roaches on tip-up rigs.

Angler warning: With rising temperatures, anglers should use caution when out on the ice. Be on the lookout for dark and opaque colored slushy ice, and do not fish on ice that is less than four inches thick.



Mike Gorman with a monster pike from Mazonia

JJC baseball preview

Top-ranked Wolves gear up for title run

BY JOEL ROZA

Sports Editor

After a disappointing 24-25 season in 2013, the JJC Wolves, led by head coach Wayne King, are on a quest to prove that 2013 campaign was a fluke.

"We have 17 sophomores, and 13 of those are returns from last year," said King, "so with our third losing season last year, it's something we're just not used to, so these 13 who were here with us last year, I think they're really motivated to turn that around this year."

With seven sophomore pitchers and ten sophomore position players (four outfielders and six infielders), the Wolves hope that experience will aid a quick turnaround for a program that isn't accustomed to losing seasons and quick exits in the playoffs.

The Wolves enter 2014 as the top-ranked team in the National Top 10 Poll despite last season's finish – a testament to how highly-regarded other schools and coaches within Division III NJCAA hold King's program – though that ranking isn't clouting the team's focus.

"There's talk [amongst players]," said King "but I keep putting them back in line to make sure we know where we are."

Obviously fans like those rankings; but like lineup cards and starting rotations, things are bound to change. The goal is not to start the season as the best, but to end it as the best.

The plan going into this season, according to King, is to run out those sophomores and allow the freshman talent to play their way onto the field, and perhaps into starting roles.

Competition is expected to manifest itself throughout the roster as the season progresses, as King hopes to find that key lineup combo that will carry the team back to its recent glory.

"Behind the plate is going to be one of our strongest suits," King stated, "we're going to have T.J. Condon and Colton Trager there. Kevin Ganzer will do well there, too with three freshmen catchers.

King believes Condon and Trager, "Really can do a lot for our team this year, they're going to control the running game and they can throw really well and I think they can swing the bat really well."

In addition to catching depth, the team also sports two freshmen outfielders to watch – Ron Sessler and Jeff Pattison. "Those are two that are sitting there, and if a sophomore doesn't step up, those guys are going to play." said King, fostering competition within the team.

They're going to play anyway because they're good enough, but if a sophomore doesn't step up and do his job, he's going to lose that job, so I'm really looking forward to seeing those guys play."

In terms of sophomores who must perform, King was quick to point out that if guys such as RHP Josh Wojnarowski, OF Alex Bebar, and INFs Tyler Thorson and Nick Fleischauer are unable to match or exceed their 2013 inputs, this season will be all the more tough navigate through. "Those guys have to be as good or better this year," King said.

It helps any program to have alumnus stopping by every now and again to lend a helping hand or some positive words of reinforcement, and the baseball program is no different.

Last week, the Wolves had St. Louis Cardinals farmhand and former JJC star pitcher Zach Petrick attend the team's practice as he prepared for his trip to Cardinals major league camp in Florida.

Petrick is one of many players King has coached who have gone on to careers in professional baseball, though Petrick is the only one still actively pursuing the chance to become the first JJC alum to make it to the major leagues.

While the current roster holds no such star power, King is hoping that the team's experience and chemistry will carry them to higher, more familiar levels in 2014.

It will be a delicate situation as the team adjusts to, hopefully soon, playing on natural fields again ahead of their season-opening road trip to St. Louis, and struggles are expected.

But that's what makes King's program as highly respected as it is – after 27 years, there isn't much the legendary coach hasn't seen or dealt with. He's won with rosters of all kinds, and this current incarnation is one that gives him something to be excited about.

The team begins play in St. Louis on February 28, and returns home after two games there to face Triton College on March 5 and March 8.

NJCAA Division III Preseason Top 10 National Poll

1. Joliet Junior College
2. Tyler Junior College
3 Niagara County Community College
4 Northern Essex Community College
5 Gloucester County College
6 Century College
7 Brookdale Community College
8 Erie Community College
9 Montgomery College
10 Eastfield College

Mens basketball from page 1

finally grabbed a 49-48 lead after a Justin Scanlan and-one. That play would spur a 15-0 run, giving the Wolves a 61-48 advantage with 9:51 remaining. Not only did this help the Wolves on the scoreboard, but it made the crowd roar louder than it may have all season.

From that point on, the Wolves would use good defense and efficient foul-shooting the rest of the way to knock off Rock Valley College by a final score of 74-65.

Guard Zoran Aresnovic, who was an NJCAA Player of the Week for Week 14, added points along with effort for the Wolves, as did Deiondre Cunningham, who also added a few 3-pointers.

On the victory, Head Coach Joe Kuhn said, "It was a really good win; they were ranked number three in the country. We had a really good game with them before that we let get away, but this time, our guys were ready for this one." The early match-up Kuhn speaks of was an 88-81 defeat back on Jan 29.

When asked about the 15-0 run his team had in the second-half, Kuhn responded with, "I had no idea the run was that high-scoring, I knew we had a good run going that was mostly because of the good work we were doing inside the paint."

"We had a bit of a soul-search session the last few practices," Kuhn continued, "and they responded very well as seen on the scoreboard, and I couldn't be prouder."

Kuhn was very enthusiastic and for good reason, since he seemed to have a bit of hanging displeasure from the last time the two teams met.

Looking back on the year entirely, it was definitely one worth following. The Wolves began the season with 7-0 start. Though it was against non-conference opponents, it was very much a promising start to the long-haul of the season. However, luck would change a bit as the Wolves lost their next four games. By the end of their non-conference schedule, the Wolves were a competitive 10-6.

As the first portion of the schedule ended, the North Central Conference portion of the schedule would bring forward a new set of challenges for the Wolves, but also would bring a factor of familiarity by facing foes the Wolves see every season. Apparently, the rivalry factor would only bring positive energy since the Wolves dominated early on by winning each of their first four games and bringing their overall record to a strong 15-6. The Wolves would then alternate wins and losses a few times in the remaining conference schedule to reach the latter part of the season with a record of 19-10, along with a very impressive 9-4 record in conference play. Even more impressively, the Wolves are a sterling 14-0 at home.

"I really like my team, it's a very good group of young men, so regardless of our result at the end of each game, I know my team is still in good shape," Kuhn mentioned on his team's play this season.

With the regular-season releasing its hold, the Wolves are getting set for post-season play. On Feb 26, Region IV tournament play will commence with the quarterfinals. The Wolves should look to stay healthy for this as they'll like to put their best roster forward when facing the reality of elimination.

"When it comes to post-season play, we just want to find ways to keep sharing the ball, when we do that, we create shots and makes points, so if we can do that, I think we'll be pretty good when the playoffs start."

Though the Wolves are looking ahead to the post-season, they have to be pleased after a solid win over a credible Rock Valley team.

All season long, the Wolves have shown countless signs of strength and confidence when it's mattered the most. The hope around the program is that the Wolves can carry their momentum into the playoffs and come away with the goal they've been longing for.

Ricky Carter makes a move against Rock Valley.

Justin Scanlan scores inside against Rock Valley.

Photos by Lindsey Cantrell

Campbell a humble star-in-the-making

From left: Le'royia Campbell during her Oswego East days- a dominant force even then. In JJC uniform, Campbell is shown with a rare determined focus. *Photo courtesy of Facebook.*

BY JOEL ROZA

Sports Editor

Le'royia Campbell is not what one would expect from a budding star on an up and coming Division III basketball team: She's humble, loose, and teammates gravitate to her on and off the court.

There is nothing entitled about her personality or her approach to basketball – she just wants to win and have fun in the process.

Born in Joliet but raised in nearby Oswego, about 20 miles to the northwest, Campbell made a name for herself at Oswego East High School, playing alongside current Lady Wolves' teammate, forward Brittany McWaine.

After some heavy recruitment from other Division III schools, and even a couple Division I schools, Campbell decided on JJC, in large part because she wanted to avoid putting too much distance between herself and her family.

"I am really close to my mom, so I didn't want to go far," said Cmmpbell.

The Campbell family can always be seen front-and-center at their daughter's games, cheering during the game, and offering love and support afterwards.

"My mom and dad are at every game – home and away."

The recruitment process was a stressful one for Campbell, as she dealt with the prospect of having to let down coaches in the hunt for her services, but the factor that sealed her commitment to JJC was her long-established rapport with head coach Shaun Sanderson.

Says Campbell, "I had a really good relationship with coach Shaun because I knew him from before; my sisters used to play hasketball around Joliet and he used to always be there, so it made it easier to make a decision."

Since arriving, Campbell has blossomed into a star – leading the team in points per game (11.1) and 3-PT percentage (29.3), while also sitting near the top in numerous other team categories.

But her presence isn't just felt statistically; it's felt in her hustle, court-vision, and in her ability to create shots: already a master of the Euro-Step, and her willingness to create and facilitate is what makes her so dangerous on the court.

Campbell places a lot of the credit for her development on coach Sanderson and his willingness to push her to be a more creative force.

Calling it, "the best thing that ever happened to me," Campbell feels the pairing of her and Sanderson will make her a better player for when a four-year college comes knocking next year.

Campbell credits Sanderson's enthusiasm and encouragement for why the team is so vocal and demonstrative on the sidelines, no matter if the game is close, or if the team is up by 30 or down by 30.

Campbell herself is among the most vocal – as evidenced by a stretch during the team's 74-30 romp over Wilbur Wright College on Jan. 22, when the team's hench was cleared for mop-up work, Campbell could be seen and heard yelling support for her teammates throughout her time on the bench, rarely taking her eyes off of the game.

Off the court, Campbell is a hit with her teammates, and coach Sanderson calls her "bubbly" and "a joy" to work with, citing her love of laughing and staying loose.

"She's awesome," said teammate Laporshia Williams, when asked to describe Campbell off the court, professing "She is a goofball! She loves music and goofing around and doing her little dances."

Campbell herself noted that the camaraderie in college is a far cry from her experience in high school, where teammates were often splintered off into separate groups. Here, Campbell can often be seen not far from teammates and friends, finding ways to forge bonds away from basketball, which can only help when things do come back around to basketball.

Chemistry often will usurp talent. On the court, Campbell's competitive nature can be seen no more clearly than when her team is the underdog.

After a deflating loss to the nation's top-ranked Division III school, Rocky Valley College on Jan. 25, the mere mention of Rocky Valley and the upcoming re-match brought out the angst of her competitor.

"We can heat them," Campbell stated defiantly, eiting team-wide nerves and letdowns for the lopsided final score. "We beat ourselves that night," Campbell said before stating that she and the team were ready for Rock Valley this time around.

"I'm so sore right now, but if they wanted to play that game now, I'd be all for it."

When I asked if she would do it at some obscene and ridiculous time like 3 in the morning, she quipped quickly: "Bring it on."

If you hop onto the NJCAA page and look for Campbell among this conference's statistical leaders, unfortunately you would come up empty-handed.

Campbell's game is progressing into a statistical force, but for now, she remains largely a Tracy McGrady-like player, in terms of shot creation and play facilitation. Her smooth passes and soft shooting touch are things that must be seen in order to fully appreciate.

But Le'royia Campbell's play on the court is not all that defines her. She's a family-first Illinois girl who preters to enjoy life instead of harping on why her team couldn't figure out some loss to College of DuPage.

But don't mistake that for a lack of dedication. As her Coach Sanderson said, "she works very hard in practice, she pushes her teammates, and she's very eoachable."

Watching Le'royia play just one time leaves one with an impression that she's due for bigger and better things. Like this level of play is okay for now, but she'll be elevated soon enough. Keep your eyes open. This girl has game.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Zoran Aresnovic has helped carry the Wolves to great heights with 17 points in a 74-65 victory against fourth-ranked Rock Valley College on Feb.19.

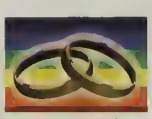
He added 16 points in a 74-63 victory against the College of DuPage on Feb. 22.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Brittany McWaine has been the model of consistency lately, posting 15 points vs. Milwaukee Area Technical College on Feb. 12.

She nearly duplicated the performance by scoring 14 points vs. College of DuPage on Feb. 22.

INSIDE



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Joliet Junior College

Blazer

Like us at JJC Blazer

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014 VOLUME 87 ISSUE 3

Board votes to keep student clubs funded

Boardroom is filled to capacity as students flooded the trustee meeting in an effort to prevent the college from potentially making cuts to clubs. *Photo by Richard Maska*

BY RICHARD MASKA

Co-Editor

After learning that campus clubs and activities were on a possible cut list to the college budget, some 60 students donning blue OSA shirts flooded last Tuesday's Board of Trustee meeting in an appeal to prevent the cuts from being made.

Three students spoke to the board on behalf of the campus clubs, as the vote went 4-2 in favor of a $4 increase to tuition costs per credit hour, which should generate enough funding to student clubs and activities off the cut list.

"I was elated, I was excited the board voted the way we wanted them to, they raised tuition so they couldn't get rid of the clubs," said Curtis Anderson, president of the Futurists Club.

In a statement made through email, JJC President Debra Daniels said, "I would like to thank the students for their support of the tuition increase. Their support was crucial to the board voting to raise tuition as our board is sensitive to

See Board on page 7

New star power at planetarium

BY ALEX FORGUE

Co-Editor

This semester, JJC installed a new star projector to replace the old star projector that was installed in 1972.

The old star projector, Spitz 512 star projector, was run alongside a video projector and a slide projector, however, the computer that ran the video and slide projector stopped working in 2008, which prompted the astronomy and natural science department to begin looking for a new one.

However, since funding was scarce and because the old star projector continued to work, the college continued to use it, despite the projector having occasional problems that were "not easy to predict," according to Noella D'Cruz, who has been teaching full-time at Joliet Junior college since the fall of 2006.

The process of getting a new star projector was not easy.

The first step was finding a suitable replacement for the Spitz 512 star projector. In order to find the right model for the planetarium, D'Cruz and her colleague Andrew Morrison spent time visiting other planetariums; talking to planetarium directors; getting information from companies that sell and install such systems; seeing potential systems in action at conferences; and by bringing these companies to JJC for a demonstration of their products.

The two professors did most of this work from the spring of 2012 to the spring of 2013.

See Projector on page 4

Students celebrate Spirit Week at JJC

BY LINDSEY CANTRELL

Staff Writer

JJC's Spirit Week featured a number of OSA sponsored events for students, giving them a chance to show their pride in the school, and have fun while they're at it. The events ran the first week of March, and featured contests, costume showings, transfer information, and a chili cook-off held at the Center Bridge.

To kick off Spirit Week, one of the first events held on the bridge was "Deaf Idol." The Here's Your Sign Club put on this event for their members and anyone from the audience who wanted to see what it is like for the hard of hearing to do something as simple as enjoy a few songs of music. The event was set up just as the hit show American Idol is on Fox.

ASL Idol Judges were past president Veronica Pollard, past secretary Janet Sharik, and Destiny Phillips, current student and current promotions officer for the club.

Contestants were Alyssa Danhoff, a club member, an audience member and Joe Kelly, a club officer and vice president) and president of Phi Theta Kappa. A variety of spectators decided to join in as they went along as well. Even the judges, Janet and Veronica decided to sign a few numbers and gave their input on the discussions held in between contestants' selections.

Veronica Pollard was a crowd favorite for her classic performances of N'sync's "Bye Bye Bye" and the Backstreet Boys' hit "I want it that way." She made it a point to say to the audience that, "The only thing we can't do is hear. We can do anything else, so we want all the same opportunities as you."

Some of the other selections were "Safe and Sound" by Capital Cities, "Hurricane" by 30 Seconds to Mars, "Lights" by Journey, "I will not bow" by Breaking Benjamin, "The Road Not Taken" poem by Robert Frost (signed by Joe Kelly), "I just called to say I Love You" by Stevie Wonder (signed by judge Janet Shurik).

"It was great because the

See Spirit on page 9

The obstacle course put participants into awkward situations. *Photo by Lindsey Cantrell*

EDITORIALS

We don't want those fracking jobs!

Over the last decade, oil and gas companies have come up with a new drilling technique called Hydraulic Fracturing which is commonly referred to as "fracking."

Fracking involves drilling and then injecting hydraulic fluid at high pressures in order to break rocks in order to release natural gas that are trapped inside of the rocks.

The hydraulic fluid is also a special fluid created by the company which often has over 600 ingredients in the fluid that the companies have decided to hide from the general public because many of the ingredients are carcinogens and toxins such as methanol, mercury and uranium which is proven harmful to humans and other forms of life.

The fluid is inserted through a drilled pipeline down below to crack open the rocks; during this process, the toxins such as methane gas are leaked into nearby ground water which is often the same well water that people get their drinking water from.

In fact, studies have shown that ground water near fracking sites are contaminated with seventeen-times more methane gas than ground water away from fracking sites.

Since these toxins are harmful, people who have had their water exposed to these toxins from the fracking fluid are often force to buy bottled water because drinking the contaminated water has been led to sensory, respiratory, and neurological damage.

Some studies suggest that cancer rates are higher near fracking sites.

In fact, you can see the contamination in the water; the water is often brownish in color, and you can actually light the water on fire.

In places like Texas where fracking is legal, there are towns where people's drinking water is flammable enough that a single spark would ignite and cause an explosion which has led to people taking showers with the lights off.

Once the fluid is used, the waste fluid is often left in open pits to evaporate volatile organic compounds commonly referred to as "VOCs." The VOCs are often harmful and are acidic which causes the evaporation of them to produced holes in the ozone layer and acid rain.

These harmful side effects are not unknown to these companies; they know how harmful fracking is to the environment, which is why they know that any regulation would prevent them from using fracking as a technique to extract natural gas.

In order to prevent regulation, the gas and oil companies have lobbied to exempt fracking operations from the Safe Drinking Water Act and have legal protections to keep the ingredients in their fracking fluid confidential from the public.

Many will argue that the side effects are over exaggerated, but scientists has reassured that the use of fracking is extremely dangerous and will have permanently-negative effects on the environment.

A common selling point by politicians who often have inside deals with the oil and gas companies is that fracking will create thousands of jobs with the creation of the proposed Keystone pipeline; which is true to some extent; the thousands of jobs are temporary though and will often last less than two years, and when all is done, there would be about 35 permanent jobs left over.

More importantly, we are facing an environmental and climatic crisis; and fracking and the Keystone pipeline will just exaggerate the crisis to a point of no return.

Converting to more efficient and renewable energy will create more jobs than fracking because there is more to be done such as research, building the technology, and installing the technology.

We as a people need to begin to look at the planet as a whole instead of chasing after temporary solutions for quick profits at the expense of the environment and the planet.

Fracking must be stopped and it is our jobs as humans to stop it because in the end, the damages caused by fracking has the power to put an end to human life entirely.

As a leader in suistanability initiatives JJC, and the science and STEM departments in general, must continue to warn students of the dangers of fossil fuel extraction.

Espicially fracking, which is set to begin in downstate Illinois soon; bringing this flammable nighmare too close for our comfort.

As students, we need to be steadfast on saying 'no' to fracking.

Student support carries the day

Lately JJC has been under considerable financial strain as enrollment has plateaued in the past few years, and money from Springfield is nowhere in sight.

Faced with the choice of further slashing their razor-thin budget by cutting student clubs and activities, a move some Trustee members were in favor of, the board voted to raise tuition instead, knowing some would find it unpopular.

But the tough choice was made easier as more than 60 students passionately supported student clubs at this month's Board of Trustee meeting; all of them supporting the tuition hike.

The students expressed how much the clubs and OSA has meant to them for giving them a sense of belonging, and providing opportunities they otherwise would not have.

Research backs their position: Students involved with campus clubs perform better in class and are hired to better positions after school due to a stronger resume.

Chairmen Andy Mihelich seemed moved as he said how JJC students have always impressed him with their initiatives.

The students must have been impressed themselves. Their presence affected change in a way they could not have predicted, as they all left the meeting knowing that it was *their* say that mattered.

BLAZER STAFF

Richard Mosko
Co-Editor

Alex Forgue
Co-Editor

Brittney Andersen
Production Manager

Sarah Lake
Advertising Manager

Lindsey Cantrell
News and Photo Editor

Ivan Morales
Copy Editor

Victoria Shiner
Copy Editor

Joel Roza
Sports Editor

Staff Writers:
Brandy Andersen, Elias Albert, Travis Olson, Pat O'Carroll, Jacqueline Bilot, Crystal Martinez, Tim Bunce.

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

Contact information:

Blazer
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431

Phone number:
815-280-2313

Brown Bag Lecture

Globalization widens gender wage-gap

BY RICHARD MASKA
Co-Editor

In the world's developed counties, globalization is often associated with the corporate investors who look expand their markets–and profit margins, at the expense of regional blue-collar jobs via outsourcing.

Here in the United States, the garment industry has largely been transplanted to developing countries overseas, in search of cheap labor, leaving countless workers unemployed as they are unable to compete at such a low-wage scale.

But one aspect that receives little attention is the influence globalization has had developing countries where foreign investments are pouring in, as JJC professor of anthropology and sociology Roya Falahi explained at a recent Brown Bag Lecture on March 6.

"Globalization has had some adverse effects, particularly for women in developing countries," according to Falahi, "it disconnects people from the jobs currently available in the expanding world market from the lifestyle they used to occupy."

From the spread of global networks through mass communication, unprotected free trade and outside investments, such as those made by the World Bank, many traditional and local economies have suffered as a result of globalization.

According to Falahi, these commercial investments are "made almost exclusively to expert industries and not the indigenous industries that native societies rely on."

This production is not for local consumption; rather it is made for a global market. Industrialized farming, for example, has had life changing effects in Latin and Central America.

"People (have) become confined*to living in one area because of the land usage that globalization requires," many end up end up losing their possessions and way of life this way, "Banana plantations for example, means when you go to the grocery store and pay $1 for 3 pounds of banana . . . but the people who grew it cannot afford it."

Another example of global markets negatively impacting indigenous populations is the farming of quinoa, a kind of grain high in protein, complex carbohydrates and fiber, which plays a major part of the diet in Peru.

But massive investment from the United States into quinoa production has driven prices so far up that "now it's an organic produce," said Falahi, costing $5 to $6 a pound, "which makes it impossible for the people who grew it to consume it when it used to be a part of their diet."

The burden is especially hard on women: "Two-thirds of the world's work is done by women, yet they own only 1 percent of the entire property in the world, and only 10 percent of the income in the world."

This disparity is reflected here in the United States and by no means exclusive to far-flung countries around the world.

"We have the most segregated labor market in the entire industrial world . . . not only based on sex but on race so that people of different color and gender from white men rarely compete for the same jobs."

"We create two dichotomous opposing genders based on sex . . . . we assume that biological differences can be and should be translated into gender inequalities."

Women are seen as a "flexible workforce," and only good at certain jobs, creating the "notion that males' income is the primary and predominant source of income in the family, whereas women's income is seen as a contributor."

"Two-thirds of the world's work is done by women, yet they own only 1 percent of the entire property in the world and only 10 percent of the income."
-- Professor Roya Falahi

This low view of women's economic contributions means that many homespun "cottage" industries or under-the-table type jobs they occupy are not as accurately tracked.

"For example, The gender wage gap is 68 cents per dollar, but when you look at the census bureau, it tells you 77 cents per, because it takes into account the incomes of all women. But the majority of women are not in professional occupations."

The majority of working women in the United States, said Falahi, is in the service industry and in comparatively lower paid jobs despite the fact that, "the median income for a woman in the U.S. is $26,000, which is only $5,000 above the poverty line for a family of four."

The income one needs to live comfortably in Will County, for example, is around $38,600 for rent and cost of living.

"Women in just about every race are more likely to complete an undergraduate degree than men. Women hold only 7 percent of high level corporate board seats and 95-97 percent of all senior managers are men.

"When women do rise to CEO Positions such as at General Motors or Yahoo it is often overly celebrated, but the fact of the matter is that of the 4012 highest paid CEOs and business executives, only 19 of them are women."

In comparison, the Netherlands, as well as other northern European countries, have the lowest wage gap among industrialized countries.

In the United States 16 percent of congressional members are female, whereas in Sweden, 48 percent are female.

These countries have strong family assistance programs such as prenatal care and government subsidized benefits that include universal childcare.

As a result, they have some of the lowest rates of poverty in the world.

"They do have very high taxation the money has to come from somewhere, but they feel that this is money well spent."

Falahi's extensive talk brought to light a variety of misnomers about gender disparities and society, many of which were suprising to the students attending.

Jake Broz, a student of Falahi's anthropology and sociology classes, was surprised to hear about the disparity between the official gender wage gap and the real wage gap that Falahi laid out.

"It's almost as if it is something they are trying to hide," said Broz.

The lecture in its entirety will be posted on the JJC's website and can be found by searching Brown Bag.

"I thought it was really good, a lot better than what I had expected," said Rob Stewack, another student, who stayed the entire length of the lecture despite breaking previous plans he had made.

Dr. Roya Falahi explains the adverse effects globalization has had on women abroad and at home in a recent Brown Bag Lecture.
Photo by Richard Maska

JJC tops in recycling challenge

By Richard Maska

Co-Editor

Thanks to the efforts from students and staff, the college has collected and recycled over 3200 bottles and cans into the PepsiCo Dream Machine recycling kiosk, vaulting them into first place in the rankings in the PepsiCo's nation-wide challenge.

JJC had been in second place behind West Virginia's Huntington College until the most recent results were released on March 7. Some of the participating colleges including much larger four-year schools such as Joliet's University of St. Francis, and the University of Arkansas.

Introduced last September, the electronic kiosk is located in the Main Campus cafeteria, and rewards points for each recycled beverage container. Once 100 points is obtained, participants can redeem them for coupons and discounts various retailers and restaurants in the area.

"I heard about it from someone in the architecture department," said Patrick Kacirek, who had sorted through some of the landfill trash-bins on campus and gathered a garbage bag full of recyclables.

Kacirek said he his friend received $50 off for a set of car tires from the Pepsi kiosk, and said he wouldn't mind earning the same voucher.

But it's not discounts or car tires Kacirek was after: "It's important to make people aware that it does make a difference when you do something like this."

The success of the kiosk is due in part to the efforts of the Students for a Sustainable Future who helped raise awareness by setting up an informational table next to the Dream Machine last fall.

Patrick Kacirek, an architecture major, making good use of the kiosk. *Photo by Richard Maska*

According to the JJC Newsroom, if the machine continues to collect bottles and cans, PepsiCo Recycling has promised to donate the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBC), a national program that offers free training to post-9/11 veterans who have entrepreneurial aspirations.

The initiative was created by Pepsi in order to increase the amount of recyclable containers from the current rate of 40 to 50 percent by 2018.

According to www.pepsicorecycling.com, "It takes only a small change in behavior to make a big difference for our planet. If every household in the U.S. recycled just three more plastic bottles, we could divert more than 23 million pounds of plastic from our landfills,"

To use the machine, participants must first create an account and a ten-digit ID at Pepsi's recycling webpage to gain access to use the machine and to redeem the points.

According to the JJC Director of Facility Services, Patrick Van Duyne, the college reached out to Pepsi after learning that Lewis University had the same machine.

"Pepsi was exclusively working with Waste Management, JJC had to put them in touch with our waste hauler and new agreements had to be formalized."

Once that was complete, it did not take long for JJC to accumulate hundreds of recyclable containers and quickly ascend up the PepsiCo Challenge Rankings.

JJC is a leader in green initiatives ever since joining the Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact in 2010, and has received top honors by the state for winning a gold-level status in 2012 for their efforts, one of only eight colleges to reach such a level.

Under JJC's Master Plan initiative, since December 2009 six of the seven Main Campus construction and addition projects have met the standards in Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED).

Projector from page 1

The professors eventually came up with the idea that a single projector would be best. "The advantage of a single projector versus multiple projectors is that no blending of images is needed," commented D'Cruz."Images from multiple projectors could be difficult to blend seamlessly.

Also, with multiple projectors, bulbs in different projectors age differently, and that could cause blended images to not blend seamlessly."

However, having a single projector does not allow as many pixels to be projected on the dome, which can lower the level of details in images.

But the lack in detail was too small of an issue to make any controversy among the professors, who felt that having one projector would save time in not having to resolve any blending problems that might occur when using multiple projectors.

Because of this, the professors decided that a single projector would be best for the planetarium.

After doing their research, the two professors finally concluded that Omnistar, a digital planetarium system, from the company Audio-Visual Imagineering, he purchased after receiving a demonstration from the company at JJC to see what how well it would work in the planetarium.

"This system was preferred because it uses Uniview software, which has the capability of visualizing a variety of datasets on the dome, in addition to projecting the night sky.

This is the same software used by the American Museum of Natural History's Hayden Planetarium and the Adler Planetarium," said D'Cruz.

After making their decision, the department purchased the digital star projector and began installing it in December 2013 and finished the installation in January 2014, which was the best time to install it without interrupting classes that take place in the planetarium.

The installation process involved thorough cleaning of the dome as well as repainting so that any reflectivity would be eliminated when showing full dome videos, which is a standard procedure when installing digital projectors.

The company, which supplied the projector, helped with the installation by contracting the company Astro-Tec to do the installation for JJC because digital projector installation is Astro-Tec's specialty.

Funding for the new star projector came from a grant from the JJC Foundation, which contributed $186,000 towards the project, and the rest of the funding came from the college from general tuition fees and course fees for classes like Astronomy and Life in the Universe.

D'Cruz is also confident in the many new benefits that students will experience with the new projector.

The new star projector is not only easier to manage and update but has a wide range of new capabilities that the old projector did not.

For example, the new star projector allows professors to outline constellations, show various types of data sets, project 3D models and the ability to view the sky from various places in the solar system.

"We can show 3D models of the International Space Station, Voyager I, Voyager II, the Curiosity rover sitting in Gale crater on Mars and other spacecraft on the dome," said D'Cruz.

She also noted that the projector allows them to create and save movies as well to connect to other planetarium shows through the Uniview software which runs the projector.

The professors are excited to use the new star projector to teach students and to have them explore the universe in many new ways and more in depth like never before.

The old star projector was donated to the Joliet Historical Museum.

D'Cruz would like to personally thank the JJC foundation and the board of trustees for the approval and the funding for the new star projector that will allow them to do much more when teaching students and the community about the universe.

D'Cruz also noted that she encourages the community to attend the free planetarium shows provided by the college.

The dates and more information on the planetarium shows can be found on JJC's website or by contacting D'cruz.

Police Reports

Criminal trespassing

JJC Police arrested and charged Demarco Markham, Chicago, with criminal trespassing after police said he was found in his girlfriend's Centennial Commons' apartment on Feb 18. Markham had previously been trespassed to the property, according to police, and was scheduled to appear at the Will County Courthouse on March 12.

Hit-and-run investigation

Heriberto Ruiz, Plainfield, was arrested at Main Campus and charged by the Joliet Police for an In-State warrant after police say Ruiz was located during an investigation of a hit-and-run accident on Feb. 21. According to police, he was interviewed and later released after posting a $425 dollar bond. Ruiz is due at the Will County Courthouse on March 20.

In-State warrant

Jacob Albers, Mendora, was arrested and charged for an In-State warrant out of Grundy County after JJC Police said Albers requested police assistance on a lockout on his car on March 4. Albers is due at the Grundy County Courthouse on March 24.

Notice of trespass

Sergio Pintor, Joliet, was issued a notice of trespass after JJC Police said he came to Main Campus on the evening of March 4 and made his ex-girlfriend uncomfortable. According to police, Pintor had two knives and trace amounts of cannabis on his possession.

Verbal altercation at City Center

JJC police issued Christian Magana, Joliet, with a notice of trespass for all JJC properties after police said he got involved in a verbal altercation with his girlfriend at the JJC City Center campus. The incident took place on March 6, and according to police, this was the second incident in a month involving the two.

Multiple traffic violations

Joshua Johnston, Lockport, was issued four citations after JJC Police said that while driving he failed to signal, made improper lane usage, disobeyed a stop sign, and nearly hit a JJC Police officer on Exit Road. The incident took place on March 4, and Johnston is due as the Will County Courthouse on April 10.

News Briefs

JJC students to go to Cincinnati

Last March, JJC students Kim Freeman and Kristina Lia participated in the Collegiate Repertoire Choir, a national event that was held in Cincinnati by the American Choral Directors Association Conference.

The two students were nominated by JJC prof. Philip Spencer and were chosen as two of the 66 other students from five other states.

The choir sung several advance pieces under the direction of Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, professor of music at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Freeman and Lia were also able to listen to choirs from the nation's other regions, participate in other music reading sessions from everything ranging from show choir and jazz to renascence counterpoint, and given the chance to participate in a roundtable discussion with Spencer along with a group of other collegiate choral directors.

"It was great to listen to their concerns of the high school choir programs since we are the future high school choir directors" said Freeman, an education major.

Astronomy talk and demonstration

The latest techniques in astronomical observation will be the topic of discussion when University of Chicago astrophysicist, Dr. Michael Gladders, will explain the phenomena of gravitational lensing, and its current applications towards charting distant galaxies.

Gladders' talk, "Bending Light: Strong Gravitational Lensing by the most Massive Objects in the Universe," will be held in the Trackman Planetarium at JJC's Main Campus on April 10 at 4:30 p.m., and will be open to the general public.

The discussion relates to Albert Einstein's theory of General Relativity, which predicts that mass warps both time and space and causes light to bend as it passes close to a massive astronomical object.

The resulting effect is called gravitational lensing, which produces a natural telescope that allows distant galaxies to be viewed in greater detail than even the Hubble Telescope can achieve.

Gladders will reveal some of the results and images he and his team achieved through these methods, which gives scientists an unprecedented look into the distant past.

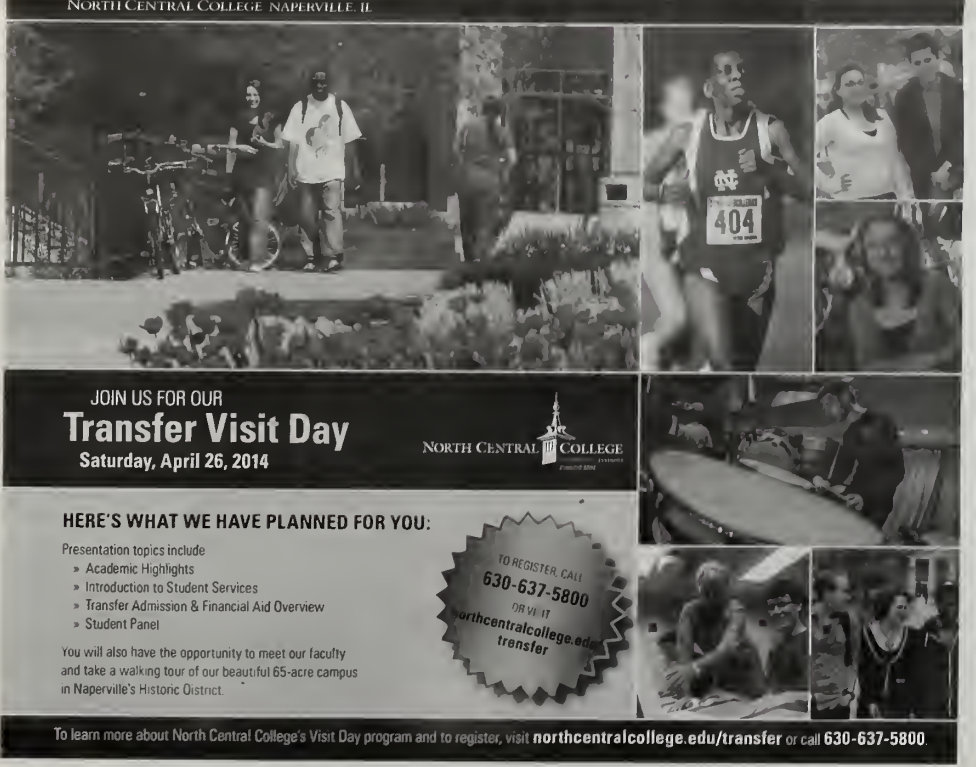
The event is free, and refreshments will be served at 4:15 p.m.

Job fair

JJC will host the 15th annual Joliet Regional Job Fair, giving job-seekers the opportunity to meet with local companies who seek applicants for full and part time employment, internships and volunteer positions.

The event will be held at between 1 p.m. through 4 p.m. on April 11 in the lower level of J-Building at the Main Campus. On-site interviews will be conducted, so appropriate dress is recommended and a resume is required for admittance.

The event is open to the public and those interested can go to jje.edu/jobfair for a list of employers attending the event. Additional information about the fair as well as advice for prospective employees is also available on the webpage.



Safe Zone lecture

Gay marriage talk at JJC

BY CRYSTAL MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

Director of Field Organizing from Equality Illinois Patty Dillon came to JJC to speak about marriage equality and rights on March 10, saying that everyone should have the same rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

There has been much hard work and commitment that has helped to obtain this goal, and soon, every couple could have the freedom to marry without difficulty.

Illinois recently approved the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, making Illinois the next state to officially provide the freedom to marry. Illinois will recognize this on June 1, 2014.

There are marriage basics that are good to know. All married couples have the same benefits, protections, and responsibilities under the law; including rights to things like insurance and healthcare.

If married in a different state, you don't need to get remarried in Illinois; your license will be recognized, but one cannot assume a marriage license will be recognized in other states. California, Iowa, and Washington D.C. are some of the many states that do, and slowly, others are moving towards that as well.

To be legally married, you must be 18 years old and not be in a legal relationship. It has to be terminated before the marriage, and if the spouse is deceased, a death certificate must be presented.

Same sex or different sex does not matter when obtaining a license.

To obtain a license, an application needs to be turned in to a county clerk's office in the state. This application requests information like name, occupation, date and place of birth, they must also state if they were previously in another legal relationship and provide identification and certificates.

Licenses are issued by a clerk, and generally cost around $30. It must be certified in that county by an authorized person within 60 days; otherwise, it will become invalid.

Once certified, it will remain valid until it is broken. The couple must be present and no clerk can refuse to issue the license due to their objection of the relationship.

After a license is given, the couple must have an officiant perform the marriage. After the ceremony, they sign, date, and write other pertinent information about the event. The license then needs to be turned in to the county clerk's office within ten days.

The ceremony can be done by a judge, county clerk, or officiant with good standing in a religious denomination.

A religious ceremony does not need to be performed and a religious denomination does not have to approve it.

If benefits are offered, the spouse is entitled to receive them as well: All Illinois employers are required to offer equal benefits and the benefits cannot be taxed.

The couple has the right to file jointly in state and federal taxes because the marriages are recognized by the federal government. If there is a desire to sponsor an immigrant of the same sex, they can also do so.

The U.S. Supreme Court overturned Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act in June 2013, allowing the federal government to allow same-sex marriage. If there is a child, biological or non-biological, the couple should file for adoption to secure the legal rights; especially since there are states that do not recognize the parental rights or marriage. If there is a death, and there is a will, the spouse has the right to what is written in the will and half of the estate. If there are children, they have the right to what is written and a third of the estate.

In the event of no will or children, the spouse inherits all possessions and if there is no will, and there are children, half goes to the spouse and the other half goes to the children. They also can get financial aid up to nine months after the death while the estate is being settled.

There has been much advancement in accepting same-sex marriage and rights, Dillon said, hopefully the future will bring the view that everyone should be treated equally when pertaining to rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. To learn more, one can consult a legal or tax advisor or visit http://www.afer.org/ or http://www.hrc.org/.

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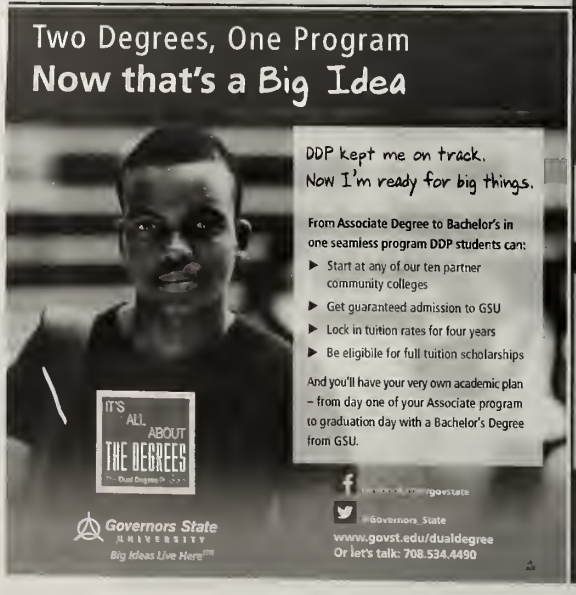

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Board from page 1

the voice of the students in our district."

Speaking at the March 11 board meeting were students Brian Hererra, Anthony Sallis, and Eric Wilhelmi, all of whom pledged their support of student clubs and activities.

"Not having student life makes it a soulless, dead, lifeless campus without the OSA," said Wilhelmi, who acts as student government vice president, "this makes it a college, and not just an institution."

Wilhelmi and other members of student government had made similar appeals to the board during their February 25 board workshop meeting.

"After the students spoke a couple weeks ago, I said I've heard the students; I can now say that I have seen the students," said Board President Andrew Mihelich.

"I have already expressed my views to the president that student clubs should not even be on a cut list; so as we approach the 2016 budget I will still be chair, and I will make every effort to keep them off."

The potential for cuts stemmed from a presentation made to the board in January that outlined what Director of External Affairs, Kelly Rohder, described as a "worst-case scenario" if the tuition increase failed to pass, and "if we did not capture all the tax levy amount that is available to us."

The tuition increase raises the cost per credit hour from $80 to $84, with the total coming to $115 when including other fees.

The levy, which is the amount of money raised by property taxes, is determined by a percentage that reflects the value of the district's property.

Some students and staff still express worry over the possibility of the levy hike not passing, potentially placing the clubs and activities back on the chopping block.

According to Rohder, the board "Informally approved the tax levy as part of the budget process," and will take effect in June.

It is not unprecedented for a tax levy failure or tuition increase to result in budgetary cuts. According to a December 2013 press release, the college cut "approximately $500,000 in supplies, contractual services and travel funds," in order to balance the budget.

OSA currently runs at a budget totaling around $106,000 to $108,000.

However the situation plays out, the Director of OSA Pam Dilday was pleased with the results, "With all the students going up there showing support for student activities and student life, I think they (the board) would be a little more hesitant to make any cuts."

"The board sees and hears you, and that you can make a difference. That's huge … showing up in numbers like that is what made the difference."

The movement for students to attend the board meeting began a couple weeks ago as members of OSA and its clubs were informed about the possibility of cuts being made to the program.

Anderson and Alexis McMartin of the Veterans Alliance club, for instance, began walking the halls, informing students about their plans for a board meeting "sit in," and recruited as many students as they could to join.

"We're hoping to let the officials up there know that this isn't just numbers on a piece of paper, that it affects our lives, and that their positions are not permanent; they are elected officials," said Anderson as he walked up alongside other students making their way to the meeting.

"When it got time to go up there, I was so surprised at how many came," said McMartin after the meeting, "it shows us there's a lot more students on campus who care and want to see something done about the situation."

As the meeting commenced, up to 60 students, most of whom wearing blue OSA shirts had shown up, filling the board room beyond capacity.

Among the student speakers was Brian Hererra, who acts as president of Latinos Unidos, as well as a representative at large for student government.

After coming to JJC unsure and discouraged about his future, Hererra joined Latinos Unidos after seeing it at OSA's Main Street, which showcases the school's various clubs.

"Right away I got involved, I did things that I would never do, things I wasn't accustomed to."

Along with the club, Hererra campaigned for DACA, which aids undocumented immigrants who arrived to the United States as a child, and temporary drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants.

"We did all these things as a group, and I just think it's remarkable being involved and being apart of something," said Hererra.

Growing up in Chicago, Hererra was the first person in his family to attend college, and owes much of his success to the opportunities that OSA and Student Activities allowed him.

"I really and truthfully don't think I belong here, I shouldn't be here but I am here because of JJC, and because of its educational programs and clubs."

Anthony Sallis, who is the club president of Student United Way, also spoke to the board, and said he came to college because his family said he, "needed that piece of paper that said I was smart."

But like Hererra, Sallis was apprehensive about his academic prospects, "Then I got involved in clubs and it changed things."

Sallis said that participation in the clubs gives people who "aren't really classroom people an opportunity to say things and do things I never would have imagined."

"These people changed my life. Higher education generally means college, to me college is just another form of education, (and) it's the activities and the leadership programs that put the 'higher' in it."

"I don't like paying for things any more than I already have to, but for something that's going to change my life and other peoples' lives ahead of me (then) it's worth it."

The last to speak was Wilhelmi, who originally moved to Joliet from Bloomington, said although he was receiving good grades his early experiences at JJC made him "so lonely and cold."

"I went to class, did what I was supposed to do," but would wait all week till he could drive back to Bloomington, "where my life, in my mind, really was."

Like Hererra and Sallis, OSA changed all of this. He ran for student government and "felt he was a part of something finally."

"This would just be a second form of high school if it were not got the OSA … I think anybody here would pay another $4 dollars to continue the quality of this institution."

Even staff members spoke about the situation to the board, Al Kennedy, the Adjunct Union Representative, said that he's found that students involved in clubs generally do better than those who are not.

Moving forward, the club members hope that their presence at the board meeting will kill any future talk of the board slashing the budget for student clubs and activities.

"If it's in December, we'll organize in December, if it's tomorrow, then we'll organize tomorrow," said Anderson.

Just a few of the students who attended the board meeting.

Photo by Mick Galli, Wolf Pack Productions

Your Elmhurst Experience

Chrissy Stelter
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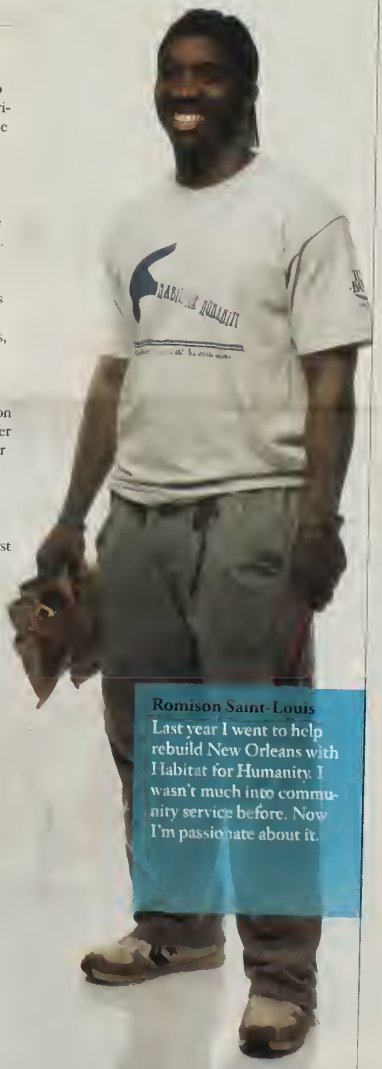

Romison Saint-Louis
Last year I went to help rebuild New Orleans with Habitat for Humanity. I wasn't much into community service before. Now I'm passionate about it.

Elmhurst College

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'American Idol' done in ASL

By Jacqueline Biolot

Staff Writer

Kicking off Spirit Week at JJC, the American Sign Language club hosted their ASL Idol competition on the Center Bridge on March 3, and gave people the chance to get up on stage and 'sing' a chosen song using sign language.

An interesting misnomer about the hearing impaired and the deaf is that although they are unable to hear many of the sounds which we can; many are able to hear the beat of the lower notes or rhythms which are in music.

They are able to feel music just like anyone else, but they hear it a little differently.

Signing a song is done differently than just signing words, as hand movements match the flow and rhythm of the music and is very much like a dance.

When singing or signing a song, they express their emotion by swaying their body back and forth, by showing emotion in their face, and through the movement of their hand motions.

The song could be slow and flow smoothly like, "I Just Called to Say I Love You," by Stevie Wonder, which ASL Idol judge, Janet Shank, signed; or a song, like N Sync's "Bye Bye Bye," which has a much more up-beat tempo, was signed by ASL Idol Judge, Veronica Pollard, signed,

"If you see someone in your class who is hearing impaired or deaf," said club leader, Mary Holdenget, "Get to know them and maybe learn to sign the alphabet, they are normal people."

Just like the t-shirt one of the contestants wore said, "Deaf people can do anything hearing people can do... except hear."

Sign language is like any other language; the only difference is that words are said with hands instead of mouth.

Sign language also has different dialects and languages that it is translated into, so specifying that it is American Sign Language, is like saying American English.

The first place winner of the ASL Idol was Alyssa Danhoff, a member of the ASL club.

"The club is a great place to practice American Sign Language," said Holden.

Veronica Pollard tries to hold it together during her rendition of "Bye, bye bye." *Photos by Lindsey Cantrell*

Spirit from page 1

judges themselves are hard of hearing and can give a accurate score with an accurate observation of how to improve," said Sponser for the Here's Your Sign Club, Mary Holden.

Also, the hearing participants can "copy sign" from the deaf students and can practice forming signs accurately and conceptually correct. For example, one Student, Serena Brownfield, got up from the audience to sign something, and mentioned it was such a challenge to sign, make dancing movements and also remember the facial expression which is vital to well produced sign language (ASL).

Here's Your Sign Language Club meets every Tuesday 3:30-4:30 p.m. The deaf and hard of hearing students teach the sign language to anyone who wants to learn more about it and with each other.

"It is tons of fun in a relaxed, safe and respectful environment for all students," says Holden.

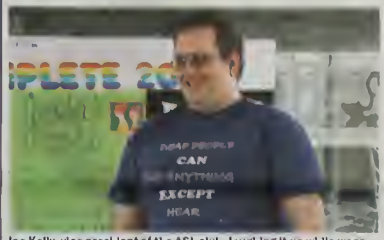
The club members encourage students to please stop by the weekly meetings. Most of the time, the meetings take place in A1002, and if not, a sign should be posted where meeting is taking place near the door.

The Deaf Idol event was a hit and inspirational to many audience members. It was a great way to start off the Spirit Week at JJC.

Secret Spy Obstacle Course

Spirit Week came to a close on Friday with a specially designed obstacle course put together on the bridge for students to test out their skills.

It was a timed run-through for each of the 30 students lined up for their turn. The top 10 winners with the fastest time to make it through the course each won a $5 gift card to the cafeteria at Main Campus. There were a few rules to this game such as a 5 second penalty for each of the red strings or "lasers" that you accidentally touch. Each contestant was given three tries each to get their fastest time.



Joe Kelly, vice president of the ASL club, laughing it up while wearing a tee-shirt that is making a statement.

What are you looking forward to most over spring break?

"Well probably my vacation to Florida, of course, since I'll be going to all the beaches and tanning the most." –Zach Avers

"I'd have to say going to the Badlands—it's this off-roading park I'm going to with my boyfriend John and a few friends. We take our four wheelers and ride around. They're having an Easter egg hunt in the woods and there's prizes if you find any too, so I'm excited!" –Brittany Eurkatis

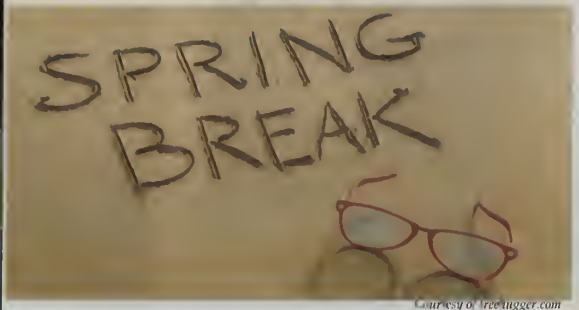
"I'm starting work again, so... money! But that's a bad answer, so probably just that a lot of my friends are also on break and I'll get to hang out with all of them." Jon Mangan

"I might be going to New Mexico! So, if I do get to go, I'm looking forward to seeing my cousins and such." –Nick Gasser

"I'm looking forward to going up to Michigan and spending time with my fiancé. With spring in general, I'm looking forward to having it be warm, seeing all the beautiful trees and plants blooming! Definitely no snow!" –Courtney Hilt

"Finally having some free time!" Tyler Dillon

"Not waking up to snow outside this spring break. Oh and I guess getting time with my friends who are coming back for break." –Sean Laughter



Courtesy of treehugger.com

Restaurant Review

Barnyard seafood from world-class chef

By Tim Bunce
Staff Writer

What happens when a butcher shop built in 1847, becomes a bank, post office, and later a restaurant? You get The Shrimp Barn, and the third oldest building in Minooka.

Located at 125 Mondamin St., The Shrimp Barn features a whole lot more than the name. When owner, Robert Degan, opened his place three and a half years ago, he just wanted to have a shrimp restaurant.

However, as people kept coming in and asking for more, the menu greatly expanded.

Their extensive seafood menu has everything from lobster to alligator, from smelt to perch; so fresh they do their own scaling and filleting on sight in the kitchen.

Everything is wild caught as well: The perch comes from Lake Victoria, in Canada; the alligator and catfish come from Macon, Miss. The Gulf of Mexico supplies all the shrimp, frog legs come from Alabama, Lake Superior provides the smelt, while the walleye comes from Minnesota. And not to be forgotten, the clams and scallops come from the San Francisco Bay.

But while their specialty is seafood, they also offer an array of other menu items: The steak and pastas are amazing and there is a great variety of sandwiches, from po' boys to Italian sausage, fish and shrimp tacos. There are various salads and a wonderful chicken as well.

For appetizers, there is a nice variety with or without seafood, such as shrimp cocktails and hush puppies. However, my favorite is the crab cakes, which I assert, rival those of Maryland.

It was in the summer of 2005 when Degan and his wife, seeking escape from the chaos of Chicago, were so convinced by the model homes in Minooka, that they soon signed the papers to the deed to their new house.

But the commute from Minnoka to the south side of Chicago became too much and Deagan sold his restaurants in the city and took a year off from the industry. He was soon employed by the Union Pacific Railroad where he was a conductor and engineer for them.

But food was where Degan's calling lies, and after learning culinary techniques at Hamburger University in Oak Park his adventure began.

Degan has been an executive chef at Premiere Restaurant, and learned Japanese cuisine at Nikos. Through the 90s, he was chef at Michael Jordan's restaurant on Michigan Avenue, cooking for Jordan, Pippen and many other dynasty-era Bulls.

Degan opened up such restaurants as Harry Caray's, Red Kerrs and the ever famous China Club. While serving as executive chef at the Ritz Carlton hotel, he prepared meals for two former executives: presidents Jimmy Carter and Richard Nixon.

The Shrimp Barn has a very unique atmosphere and décor. Originally wanting to keep the charm of the old building, Degan wanted the restaurant to double as an antique shop, and the walls are covered with antiques for sale. Even the unique table and chairs have a price.

There are big kitchen tables where you sit and enjoy both your meal and the kind of homely feeling you get from sitting at your own kitchen table. Deagan said he wants people to, "Walk in as a customer, leave as part of the family."

Come into The Shrimp Barn and have a great meal from a variety of options. Sit at a table that reminds you of your own, and let Degan come out and tell you the history of third oldest building in Minnoka. When finished, purchase part of the décor if you'd like, and leave as part of the family.

A look at the array of antiques up for sale at The Shrimp Barn.
Photo by Tim Bunce

New games coming soon

Kirby Triple Delux

Pink? Check. Puffy? Check. Powerful? You have no idea.

When a mysterious being kidnaps King Dedede atop a giant Dreamstalk, only Kirby can save the day! Jump from the foreground to the background in dynamic 3D side-scrolling environments while using new and returning copy abilities to defeat enemies. Duke it out in Kirby Fighters, a fierce 4-player* battle mode where you fight using a chosen ability like Sword or Ninja. The last Kirby standing reigns supreme. Whether you're new to Kirby or an old fan, the Kirby: Triple Deluxe game offers a triple threat - action,

5/2/2014

The Elder Scrolls Online

After 20 years of best-selling, award-winning fantasy role-playing games, the Elder Scrolls series goes online like no massively multiplayer online game before it. Experience this epic adventure on your own or together with your friends, guild mates, and thousands of alliance members. Explore dangerous caves and dungeons, embark upon adventurous quests across Tamriel, and engage in massive player versus player battles, where the victors reap the spoils of war.

4/4/2014

Dying Light

Dying Light is a 1st-person, action survival horror game set in a vast and dangerous open world. During the day, players traverse an expansive urban environment overrun by a vicious outbreak, scavenging the world for supplies and crafting weapons to defend against the growing infected population.

Survive the Night - During the day, players roam free and scavenge for supplies and weapons. But at night, the world undergoes a deadly transformation: the hunter becomes the hunted as the infected grow more aggressive and numerous, and something far more sinister awakens to stalk its prey.

Free Running Movement - Whether tracking prey or escaping predators, Dying Light lets players swiftly navigate the world by seamlessly leaping between buildings, grappling up walls and pouncing on unsuspecting enemies.

Brutal Melee and Ranged Combat - get up-close using a variety of light and heavy weapons including knives, bats, axes, sledgehammers and more exotic weaponry or utilize guns and other repower to take down enemies from a distance.

Courtesy of gamestop.com

Deep Cuts:

'Chulahoma,' The Black Keys' rare gem

BY JOEL ROZA

Staff Writer

It's hard to imagine The Black Keys as complete unknowns and nobodies in the rock circuit. After the Grammy-winning success they've experienced with their last two releases—2009's Brothers and 2011's El Camino – the duo of singer/guitarist Dan Aurebach and drummer Patrick Carney are now reaping the benefits of a decade of struggle and soul-crushing irrelevance despite the gems they were crafting year after year, album after album.

The cruelest part about their struggle is the fact that we, the general listening public, have known the band's music long before we knew them.

The band's music can be found in a wealth of commercials, TV and film scores, and commercial spots. Listening back to their older records today can induce a dizzying amount of déjà vu; songs that sound so familiar with parts that you could swear you've heard somewhere before.

But those formative years were tough, and the band was desperate to get their music out any way they could.

It was during these lean years that the band embarked on one of their more adventurous projects – an all-cover EP in honor of the late delta bluesman, Junior Kimbrough.

The resulting project, Chulahoma (named in honor of Chulahoma, Mississippi, where Kimbrough's juke joint was located), is a hidden masterpiece that flexed the band's blues muscle and was a total labor of love.

No radio play, no awards, no critical acclaim, it deserves all three of those things, but its absence almost makes it purer without it.

Released in 2006, between 2004's Rubber Factory and 2006's Magic Potion LPs, Chulahoma features six Kimbrough tracks, most of which can be accessed on Spotify or iTunes if you feel so inclined to give them a listen.

The Keys' take on Kimbrough is an honest portrayal of the man's tone, temperament, and feel; kept straight without too much creative license, they don't try to 'rawk it up' for the sake of being different. Aurebach's soulful croon is almost too perfect a match for Kimbrough's material, as evidenced on tracks like "Nobody But You," "Work Me," and "Have Mercy On Me."

The album's lead track, "Keep Your Hands Off Her" is a perfect mood-setter, giving the listener every emotional tool they'll need to blow right through the album's 30 minutes of blues majesty.

My personal favorite (and thank you for asking) is the forceful "Have Mercy On Me," which features this haunting, swirling organ throughout that plays underneath Aurebach's crooning voice and guitar and Carney's drums. The organ never overtakes the song, but its presence and use creates a mood that works beautifully.

The album ends with a recorded message of Junior Kimbrough's widow on Aurebach's answering machine, congratulating the duo and expressing pride in the band's performance of her late husband's work, telling them that they played Kimbrough's songs just as he did. I'd have to agree with her effusive assessment.

Chulahoma had almost no effect on the band's fortunes, nor was it designed to move the needle for them. To this day, it's a forgotten and neglected piece of treasure in the band's surprisingly extensive discography.

It's available on iTunes, Spotify, and other outlets. It was available on vinyl at the Half Price Books in Naperville until I bought it, though I will say that if there are any vinyl consumers reading this, this is the kind of thing you want on vinyl. Their already-warm sound is even warmer with a needle placed on it.

If you're into The Black Keys, and even if you're not, this is a listen you owe your hears.

The Black Keys we know today are excellent artists and every new release will now be greeted with massive amounts of downloads and album sells. But if you want to know the essence of The Black Keys, as an artist performing out of a labor of love, you need to put Chulahoma in your ears as soon as possible, preferably yesterday.

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—Quintin Williams '12, sociology major, graduate student at Loyola University Chicago

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Anime Review

The basketball that Kuroko plays

By Brandy Andersen

Staff Writer

Basketball could be everyone's favorite sport. I have seen a lot of basketball anime's before, but nothing so entertaining and exciting like Kuroke's Basketball.

This shonen anime is action packed with wild moves and motivated athletes.

There are currently two seasons of this amazing anime, and I am hoping the next one comes out soon.

This anime is also a manga, but it is about a certain athletic boy who was part of a team everyone referred to as "The Generation of Miracle's."

It was an elite team in middle school that had outrages skills in basketball known in Japan. Kuroke was known as the phantom sixth man, no one really knew he was on the team.

He did not have the same kind of skills his teammates had, it was special and different.

No presence on the court, so no one knew he was even there. It made for the perfect fast passes he was able to create which were called, "misdirection."

Throughout this anime his new high school team faces off his old teammates from "The Generation of Miracle's" and each time Kuroke's team faces them off, the learn something new about themselves and their team.

This anime is strong with spirit and teamwork that a lot of other sportsmen show.

My opinion on this anime is a definite must see, you cannot stop watching until you can't watch anymore because they have not started the next season!

It will make you watch carefully on the amazing movement of each character they present after every episode.

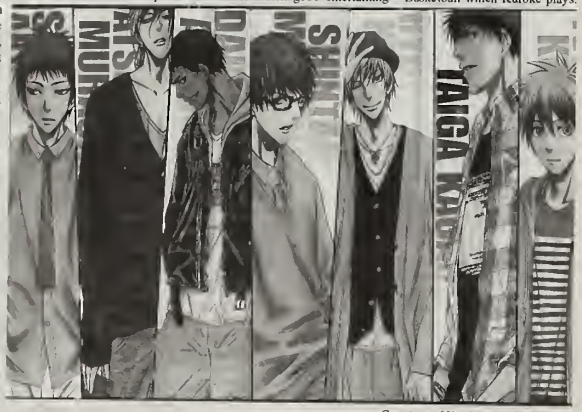
As well as Kuroke, he may be the main character, but he is not the only one that has the ability for great basketball, all through the anime you meet each of Kuroke's old teammates back from "The Generation of Miricles."

Each with his own special talent that makes them a great athlete in basketball. This anime, if I were to rate one out of ten, I would defiantly give it a nine.

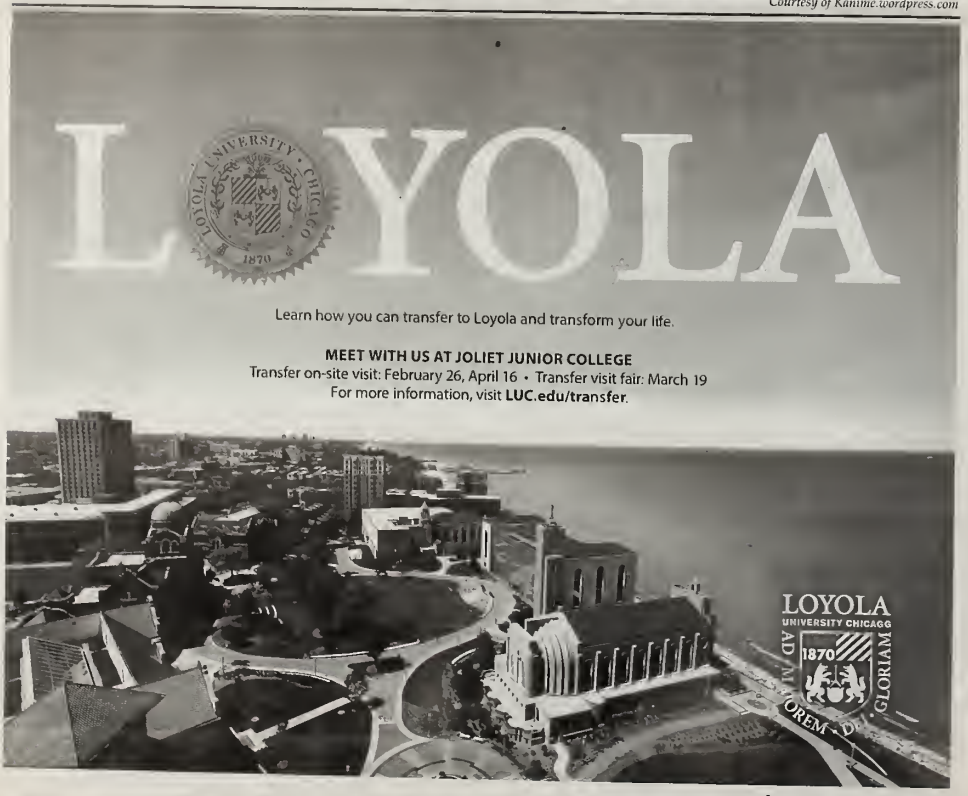
The reason I say this is because at times it does repeat the beginning of the episode you last saw.

Other than the repetitive action, it is truly a great anime to watch. So, if you are into sports and you love to watch good entertaining basketball, Kuroke'sBasketball is a great one to watch for on-the-edge, I-need-to-know-what-happens-next anime.

It may also be known as, "The Basketball which Kuroke plays."



Courtesy of Kanime.wordpress.com



Wolves baseball battles slow start and bad weather

BY JOEL ROZA
Sports Editor

There may be no crying in baseball, and no one would accuse JJC head baseball coach Wayne King of shedding said tears, but the terrible injustice done on the JJC program by Mother Nature this season has plenty of outsiders crying 'foul' as the nation's top-ranked Division III team coming into the season has gotten off to a miserable 3-8 start.

Giving credit where credit is due, King did predict this very start during a preseason sit down with the Blazer in February.

"We'll quickly fall out of that. We're gonna play games early on in Nashville against teams that have already played some games.

They're Division I schools, we're Division III, so we're gonna lose some games. I'd be happy if we won 3, 4, or 5, [but] that ranking will fall. But as it all is, we've got to work towards the end of the year and improving through the year," said King.

"I tell [the players] all the time that it doesn't matter what the first lineup is, let's try to remember what that first lineup was come tournament time."

That kind of foresight and big picture vision is what has kept King calm through this first quarter of the season.

The season thus far has been an awkward march to distant locations and littered with double-headers, but King has been able to remedy the malaise by circling through the lineups, never playing the same guys day after day, allowing his players to show him what they've got, while allowing King to evaluate which lineup he prefers.

"There's still a couple holes," King said when asked if he'd found a lineup he's comfortable moving forward with.

King continued by praising the team's offensive play while preaching patience with the pitching staff, which has accrued a cumulative 6.66 ERA through the first 11 contests.

The bullpen is an admitted weak spot on the Wolves' roster, but strong starting pitching from right-handers Josh Wojnarowski (0-1, 4.38 ERA), Matt DeGraw (0-2, 4.63 ERA), and Kevin Ruff (2-1, 3.77 ERA) will go a long way towards remedying those bullpen blues.

The longer those horses stay in the bump, the less exposed the bullpen will be to protecting slim leads, or preserving small deficits.

The staff's biggest ailment, according to King – as well as the stat sheet, has been the team's prepotency for walks and hit batsmen.

With so much rust accumulated through the off-season, and then the weather-stricken preseason program, this kind of result isn't all that shocking. There's a lot of baseball left, and King has seen enough to know that his ballplayers should come through in due time.

The season, to this point, has included standout performances from freshman catcher Colten Trager, who has blasted off this season to the tune of a .417/.516 /.667 line with 1 HR and 11 RBIs. He's been perfect defensively and has been everything King hoped he would be in the preseason and more.

Sophomore INFs Nick Fleischauer (.440/.444/.560) and Tyler Thorson (.435/.517/.522) have also torn it up for the Wolves, living up to their coach's challenge in the preseason to be as good, or better, than they had been in 2013. So far, they've met and exceeded the call.

As the schedule hits a welcome break, the Wolves must now deal with the weather once again.

After last week's snowfall and frigid temps; the Wayne L. King, Jr. Field is still not ready for game action.

According to King, upcoming home games against Kishwaukee College (March 19) and Olive-Harvey College (March 20) are in serious doubt and are likely to be re-scheduled as part of a double-header later in the season, though outright cancellation is a possibility.

If you're looking to catch the hometown 9 in action, the next-best possibility will be March 23 against Carl Sandburg College or on March 28 against Century College.

These kinds of schedule conundrums are just part of the way of life here in Joliet, though this winter has been especially harsh and brutal.

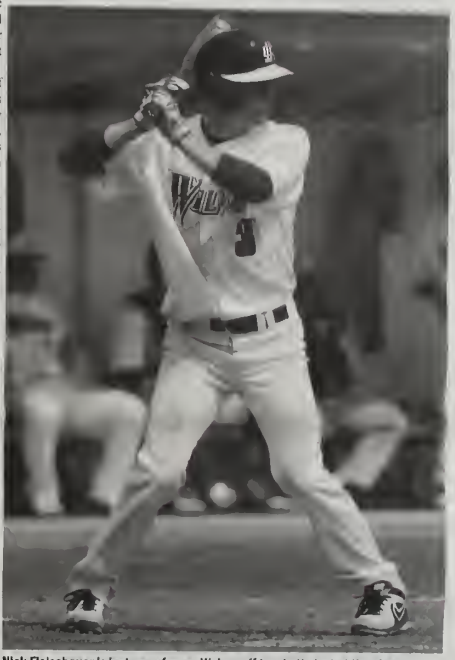
As King noted recently, JJC is usually the first school in the area to have its field ready for game play once the winter weather lifts. Many schools won't play a single home game until April.

While the tough start and weather conditions are tough to stomach, baseball, at all levels, always consists of a long season.

Where you are after 11 games isn't really all that important compared to where you are after 40 games.

The players are resilient, and they have the belief of their coaches so long as they continue to battle and work through whatever issues may be felling them now.

The team's offense is glowing to the tune of a combined .300/.380/.382 line through these first 11 games. If the staff comes along during this upcoming home-stand, there's no reason not to believe in JJC's ability to rise back up to its preseason ranking. Currently, the Wolves have fallen to #7 nationally.



Nick Fleischauer is just one of many Wolves off to a hott start at the plate.
Photo courtesy of jjc.edu

NFL

Combine previews future stars

BY ELIAS ALBERT

Staff Writer

Playing professional football is a dream held by many, especially those who've played the sport collegiately. If they hope to propel to the next level, they'll need to perform where it matters the most.

On Feb. 22 through 25, collegiate prospects received the chance to show off their skills in front of NFL staffs at the annual NFL Combine.

With some players entering this organized workout and evaluation with higher profiles than most, the three days of this event at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind. earned quite a bit of media attention.

Players like Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel and South Carolina defensive end Jadeveon Clowney were two of the many players placed high on the radars of numerous teams entering the Combine.

Questions have been raised about these players and what they'll bring to an NFL team.

There is no question that these players created their high profiles through what they managed to do in their college years, but the average fan knows and understands that the body of work in college does not always translate to the pros. Trying telling that to Clowney though.

Clowney ran a 4.53 in the 40-yard dash. Since the game in which Clowney and his former team at South Carolina faced Michigan in the 2013 Outback Bowl, the general consensus has been that he has an undeniable hitting ability.

The questions surrounding Clowney are mainly on the effort and energy he exerts, never really on his athleticism.

However, Clowney has on multiple occasions assured teams that he'll bring the same high amount of effort day-in and day-out and he's even received support from other players.

"He's going to be fine. That's what happens. You get around pros, and you learn, and you start doing it. When the competition gets high, he'll rise to it," said former South Carolina running back, and teammate of Clowney's, Marcus Lattimore.

Besides Clowney, who in all reality stole the show, Manziel, as always, was a source of attention as well.

He ran a 4.56 in the 40 yard dash and did not do any type of throwing workouts.

One may recall multiple accounts of Manziel receiving criticism for his behavior off the field. There's no doubt that he'll put in the effort, the major question is if he'll stay out of trouble long enough to even play.

Outside of the big names in this year's draft, there were quite a few others who stood out.

For non-football reasons, former San Diego State running back Adam Muema left in the middle of the combine because he claims God informed him that there is already a set plan for him, which includes being drafted by the Seattle Seahawks.

Players who earned attention for reasons other than their recent communication with a higher power include prospects like Kent State running back Dri Archer, who ran a blazingly fast 4.26 in the 40-yard dash, which is one two hundredths of a second short of Titans' running back Chris Johnson's all-time combine mark.

North Carolina's Russell Bodine led the lifting group with 42 reps on the bench press, which is seven reps short of Chicago Bear Stephen Paea's mark set in 2011.

Ryan Shazier, former outside linebacker at Ohio State, recorded a 42-inch vertical jump to lead the group, which was three inches short of the all-time combine record holder, Ohio State's own, cornerback Donald Washington.

In perspective, the three days of participation by NFL prospects was definitely worth keeping track of. Teams across the NFL made sure to keep a close eye on players that could potentially make a positive difference for their team.

It will be very interesting to see how things play out. The next chapter in the NFL offseason will commence on March 11, the first day of free agency, followed by the first night of the 2014 NFL Draft on May 8.

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Made possible by the help of Angelo's Bait Shop, the Will County Forest Preserve and reader contributions, to make sure that no time spent outdoors is time wasted.

We advocate catch and release and sustainable hunting and fishing that promotes a healthy ecosystem for generations to come.

Mazonia/Strip mine lakes: Ice fishing is still on despite the warmer weather we have experienced. While the edges of many lakes have melted due to snow-melt and runoff, according to Mike Gorman, the middle areas are still under nearly a foot of ice. If temperatures remain as they are, it is not hard to imagine ice fishing in early April.

The bite has still been strong for bluegill and panfish in a variety of depths, "they're anywhere from eight to 20 feet," said Gorman, "look for weed structure, or right above the weed line."

Other postings report good numbers of largemouth bass, and the occasional pike being caught on minnows and golden roaches.

Braidwood: The season opener on March 1 started with a bang with a 5-pound hybrid-striped bass and numerous others of good size.

Re-introduced just three years ago, area fishery biologist Rob Miller was pleasantly surprised, "they're getting to be 17 inches after one year, which is crazy growth."

Big largemouth have already been caught using chartreuse colored crankbaits since the opener, "This is the time to get them before the pressure gets too high, and the water warms up."

The water temperature has ranged from the upper 40s to lower 50s for this perpetual open-water cooling lake, which is low compared to previous years, but has not dampened production.

Be on the lookout for both flathead and blue catfish as stocking efforts from 2003 and 2006 have produced flatheads up to 44 pounds, and blues up to 25 pounds.

Shabonna: Crappies again are the staple catch this winter, with some anglers easily reaching their 10-fish limit.

Heidecke: Set to open April 1, Gorman is looking forward to more of the huge 12 to 16 inch crappies that were caught last year.

Area rivers: Pike are beginning to bite on the Des Plaines river as they move closer to spawn time; walleye on the Kankakee should become more and more active as we move into April.

Inland trout: Illinois added four new lakes to their catch-and-take trout stocking program, which will begin at 5 a.m. on Saturday, April 5.

Not stocked for natural reproduction, the stocking program offers anglers a great chance for a good fight, and a tasty prize to bring home.

The IDNR enforces a five fish limit on the amount of fish taken and a $ 6.50 Inland Trout Stamp is required to keep the fish.

Some area lakes and rivers that will be participating are:

Cook County: Axehead Lake, Belleau Lake, and Sag Quarry East.

Kankakee County: Bird Park Quarry and Rock Creek at the Kankakee River State Park

LaSalle County: Illinois and Michigan Canal at Utica

Will County: Lake Milliken at Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area

New Additions: Cook County: Green Lake and Wolf Lake; LaSalle County: Lake Mendota; Will County: Pine Lake and University Park.

Former JJC student Nick Denardo with a nice hard water bass caught on a tiny moon-jig tipped with a wax worm.
Courtesy of Nick Denardo

Men fall short in pursuit of championship glory

BY ELIAS ALBERT

Staff Writer

The Wolves' season reached its unwanted conclusion after a competitive, close loss to a strong, nationally ranked Rock Valley team in the Region IV Championship. Despite production from Justin Scanlan (15 points), Zoran Aresnovic (13 points) and Deiondre Cunningham (11 points), the Wolves came up just short by a score of 72-70.

Despite the tough loss to end the 2013-2014 campaign, Head Coach Joseph Kuhn was rather pleased with the way the season went. "Overall, it was a good season. Our staff liked how our players carried themselves for the most part and it was a good group of young men to work with."

As far as the notable highlights of the year, Kuhn saw the two wins over Triton and the fact that the team competed in the regional championship game as the major team accomplishments.

However, one cannot ignore the late season victory of the same Rock Valley team back on Feb. 22 by a score of 74-65.

In that contest, the Wolves used a 15-0 second-half run to blow past the fourth-ranked team in the nation.

When it came to players earning spotlight recognition, Kuhn gave two specifically; Cunningham earned first-team all-conference honors by opposing coaches and Aresnovic earned a place on the second all-conference team.

Kuhn emphasized that he looks forward to the beginning of next season. "For our returning players, it will be important for them to start to do the little things if they want to get better.

The proper attention to the basic fundamentals of rebounding, setting, using screens and use of floor communication are the things we look to improve upon."

Lastly, Kuhn was asked to place the whole season into one word, be responded with "close."

This is a great word to use figuring the team was close to advancing to a championship round and that, on seven occasions during the regular season, lost games by seven points or less.

With no donbt, the season was one to build off of and it will be fun to see what the Wolves have in store for next season.

Zoran Arsenovic driving on a Rock Valley defender in the Wolves' last regular season matchup.
Photo by Lindsey Cantrell

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Lady Wolves look toward brighter season in 2014

BY ELIAS ALBERT

Staff Writer

JJC softball has risen from the doldrums of a harsh winter for its 2014 campaign, and coach Emily Marino already has her team set for the long haul.

Before the Lady Wolves can dig their way into this season, lets first took a look at how last season went:

The 2013 year ended with an 11-23 overall record and a 10-10 in-conference record with players Karli Beauchamp and Stephanie Stanton earning All-Region, All-Conference and Region IV All-Tournament honors for their excellent play.

Although last season had its ups and downs, a new season is here, as is a fresh opportunity for the Lady Wolves to prove to the rest of the country just how good they are.

Of the 11 players on the roster, only one, Stanton, played on the team in 2013. "She's definitely going to be the leader of the team," said Marino.

"She'll probably be one of our better players and potentially be one of the better players in the conference." Stanton, who is a catcher out of Joliet West High School, has high expectations surrounding her and is, without a doubt, a key piece to the outcome of this season.

Since 10 of the players on the roster are new, Marino was sure to point out particular players she's expecting performance from. Shortstop Emma Traina was one of the players Marino gave high praise to.

"She has an ability to get on base. She has some great speed. I expect her to be near the top of our lineup and provide us with performance," said Marino.

She also added that the team added two transfers, outfielder Brittany Fowler and infielder Heidi Dockstader. "They both have some experience and I feel like they'll be able to contribute, especially at the plate, all season long," said Marino.

She also mentioned her two pitchers, Brianna Atteu and Christina Budd, who she feels that with a high amount of hard work and dedication can each have successful seasons on the mound. "They complement each other very well. Both of them bring their own skillset and together make a tough combination for our opponents."

With the season underway, the Lady Wolves have already traveled south to Hillshoro, Mo. and took on Jefferson College. Four games were played between the two teams, with the Lady Wolves losing all four of them on doubleheaders on both March 8 and March 9. Despite losing all four games, Marino saw plenty of positives to take from the early competition. "They're a pretty tough team, probably one of the better groups we'll play against all season, but it was our first time being out on the dirt and, honestly, our first time really being outside."

As Marino pointed out, the weather has been particularly rough lately. The ongoing winter has been one the snowiest and coldest winters in Chicagoland history, and the softball season won't want for it to end under any circumstances.

So, Marino and her team have had to keep practice indoors throughout the early going. What may be even more inconvenient, however, may be the fact that many of the Lady Wolves' games could be rescheduled due to inclement weather.

"It's going to be a challenge just to manage to get our games played on time. If we have a lot of games rescheduled, then we could end up with more doubleheaders and back-to-back days where we have to play."

She added that, "This only gets worse because then we start to lose days set aside for practice, and it begins to take a toll out on our players." It is obvious then that the general hope of the team is that Old Man Winter can take his well-deserved vacation sooner rather than later.

Lastly, Marino placed emphasis on the goals and expectations that she has set for her team.

"Even though the weather isn't right, I want us to get a consistent streak started and carry that momentum throughout the season. If we can get on a roll, I feel like we can do pretty good this year."

She also made a point about her team's health, stating, "if we can manage to avoid injuries and get enough rest in between games, then I feel like we can be successful."

When asked what she'd like to see when she looks back on this season after it has concluded, Marino responded, "I would like to say that I saw improvement, that I saw them challenge themselves, and that they worked hard and competed."

One thing is for sure about the Lady Wolves is that they've got their work cut out for them.

But Marino, as well as every member of the team, is excited to compete and give it their all in every remaining game this season.

Injured Lady Wolves fall in quarterfinals

Carlsa Banks draws defense towards her as as she looks to make a play in the offensive zone. *Photo by Lindsey Cantrell*

BY ELIAS ALBERT

Staff Writer

After a season of hard work and dedication, the Lady Wolves reached the end of their 2013-2014 campaign following a 65-53 loss to the College of Dupage in the Region IV Quarterfinal on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

"In terms of how we truly wanted to finish, it was unsuccessful, but I am proud to see how much effort they gave," said head coach Shaun Sanderson, whose team ended the season with a 12-19 record.

"This year was tough. We had to deal with injuries at some of the worst possible times. A lot of the players who had to replace injured ones were very inexperienced, and we could never really keep it all together."

Sanderson hit the nail on the head when he spoke of injuries. It was rare to see the same starting lineup during any given game as the one before it.

The schedule of teams the team played was already tough, but when you factor in injuries, it becomes a huge challenge for a young team like the Lady Wolves.

However, along with the struggles of the season, the roster still earned some honorable recognition. Le'royia Campbell earned a spot on the All-Region IV Team and Second Team All-Conference.

Kanitral Averhart also earned Second Team All-Conference.

When asked to summarize the season as a whole into just one word, Sanderson said, "challenging."

Figuring that his team had to face many challenges and deal with so many obstacles throughout the year, there may not be a more appropriate word than the one Sanderson selected.

Despite the difficulty the team faced this season, Sanderson expects better things in the future.

"For right now, we're going to take some time to rest our minds and bodies. Allow time for healing and recovery. Right after spring break, though, we'll be back in the gym and start to work on individual skills, fundamentals, and do some weight lifting."

It's that kind of work ethic that Sanderson has preached to his team all season. As far as next season and his expectations, Sanderson said.

"We're losing some players, but I feel like we can do good things with the players we'll have, like Le'royia Campbell, who showed plenty of potential this year, as well as Brittany Mcwaine. I also look for a good season out of her next year. In the end, though, we'll have the same goals as every year: get to 20 wins and keep winning in the post-season."

In summary, this was a season that was well worth playing for the Lady Wolves.

Even though it may not have gotten them the results they may have wanted, it's always good to have a season to get experience and maturity.

Expect Sanderson and his Lady Wolves to make an impact next season.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Colten Trager

Colten Trager has bolted out the gate for JJC this season, putting up a .409 batting average with 9 hits and 9 RBIs for the season. Trager's highlights include a HR and 3 RBIs in a 9-5 victory at Jefferson College (Mo) on March 8; 2 hits and an RBI in a 12-4 victory at Volunteer State (Tennessee) on March 11; and 3 hits and an RBI in a 12-8 victory at Columbia State (Tennessee) on March 12.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Emma Traina

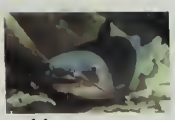
Infielder Emma Traina has gotten off to a red-hot start this season, producing a .727 batting average with 8 hits for the season. Her season includes 3 hits at Jefferson College (Missouri) on March 8; 2 hits with a triple at Jefferson College on March 9; and 2 hits with a double and RBI at Jefferson College on March 9.

INSIDE

Glimpse into the future with 3-D printer demo. **Page 3**

Wes Anderson hits the mark with 'Grand Budapest.' **Page 8**

Fishing for Blues heating up at LaSalle **Page 11**



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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2014 VOLUME 87 ISSUE 4

J Mase honors Poetry Month

BY LINDSEY CANTRELL

Staff Writer

The month of April is officially Poetry Month at JJC and to honor that, on April 7, 2014, the renowned poet J Mase III came to Main Campus to give a special poetry performance.

Mase is "a black/trans/queer/rowdy Poet with a capital "P" as he is liked to be known. He is currently based in Brooklyn, originally from Philadelphia, and is a performer and teacher of poetry there as well.

Mase has rocked all venues all down the east coast from colleges and radio stations to group homes and youth centers.

In addition, he has shared his special brand of poetry on stages all around the U.S. and the U.K.

As an organ donor, he is the author of *If I Should Die Under the Knife, Tell My Kidney I Was the Fiercest Poet Around* and creator of the annual performance event "Cupid Ain't S#*!": An Anti-Valentine's Day Poetry Movement.

As a bit of a public intellectual, "but not in the snotty way" he says, Mase can also be found contributing to publications such as the Vanderbilt African American Lectionary Online to talk about gay teens in the church and the upcoming anthology *Nina Arsenault: Body of Work.*

Always expressive, poet J Mase III helps students hone in their craft at an April 7 workshop. *Photo by Lindsey Cantrell*

Body of Art to share insight about gender and genitalia.

"If you need a performer who will make you laugh 'til you cry and then actually cry just because the poem is beautiful, make sure you check Mason out," Lillian Dunn, The Apiary Corp. said.

In Mase's "other life" as an educator and activist, he has worked with thousands of community members and service providers across the country on the needs of LGBTQ youth and

See Poet on page 9

JJC culinary program fights cerebral palsy

BY TIM BUNCI

Staff Writer

Most people in today's society have been or at least know someone whose life has been affected by somebody with special needs.

United Cerebral Palsy, an organization located at 311 S. Reed St. in Joliet, works to help people with special-needs by providing programs for both children and adults with cerebral palsy.

Knowing that state funding towards Cerebral Palsy activism only goes so far, United Cerebral Palsy held their nineteenth annual charity event on Sunday, March 30, at Bolingbrook Golf Club.

With the money raised through previous donations in recent years, they were able to build a completely wheelchair accessible playground at their center.

This year, with over 400 guests in attendance, the goal was to raise enough money for a canopy to put outside the facility, as many members are sensitive to the sun.

Eloise Crabb, director of fund development for United Cerebral Palsy explained what the program does. They have a school program setup for kids ages 3-22, and from 26 different school districts. They also have a community integrated living arrangement, which consists of three HUD homes that house up to eight people.

United Cerebral Palsy has other programs as well; there is a family-support program, adoptive program and respite program. One of the organization's biggest goals is to teach life skills.

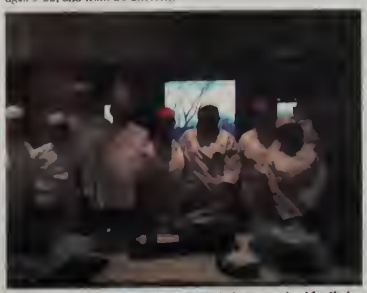
So how does JJC tie into this? The event is the idea of JJC culinary instructor Chef Fred Ferrara, who first saw these events while residing in Florida.

When Ferrara came up to Illinois he was surprised to learn that no such events were held in Illinois, and decided he wanted to help out. The result: the great chefs tasting party and auction.

The event consists of 15-20 chefs/restaurants from the area donating their own time and food, making sample size portions for up to 500 people.

During this time, people can mingle and also bid on various items donated for a silent auction. Afterwards, the people sit at their tables and enjoy speeches from a few different speakers as well as a raffle and live auction.

See Fight on page 5



JJC culinary students taking a moment to be recognized for their charitable efforts. *Photo by Tim Bunce*

A lens into the distant past

BY ALEX FORGUE

Co-Editor

Over 50 students and community members attended a lecture by University of Chicago astronomy professor Mike Gladders on gravitational lensing and how it allows scientists to view events and galaxies in the far distant past.

Gladders, who received his PhD in astrophysics in 2002, and is a member of the prestigious Kalbi Institute of Cosmological Physics, was invited to the April 10 lecture by JJC astronomy and physics professor, Noella D'Cruz.

Oddly enough, it wasn't until Gladders was kicked out of school for bad grades and placed on academic probation that he began to take interest in astronomy as his penalization forced him to choose his classes last, leaving him no alternative but to take astronomy as it was the last science course available.

Little did Gladders know, he would become passionate about the class, inspiring him to become the astrophysicist and the astronomer that he is today.

Gladders started his lecture on gravitational lensing by describing the physics of how optics work, from basic lens in our eyes to the advance mirrors on telescopes and how light travels through them.

"Light travels straight lines" explained Gladders, "However, objects with mass deviate the light from these straight paths. Gravity can change the direction of light."

Gladders demonstrated how objects with mass put a curvature in to the fabric of

See Astronomy on page 5

Calling all travelers: Airplanes are safe

BY LINDSEY CANTRELL

Staff Writer

Whether we like to admit it or not, when we start thinking about taking a trip that involves air travel, a tiny knot grows in the pit of our stomach under the excitement because we are always going to be a little leery of plane travel after 9/11.

Frequent fliers, you may have heard the legend of the pilot who bid passengers farewell after landing with these words: "The safest part of your trip is now over." That isn't just one pilot's boast, it's a truth most air travelers take for granted.

Next time you climb into a taxi to make the trip from the airport to your final destination, consider this: What do you know about the cabbie in whose hands you have placed your life? How well has that car been maintained?

Look out the window—are all the signal lights working? Is the road in good shape? What about the other motorists? Where did they learn to drive? How conscientious have they been about getting enough sleep and avoiding alcohol? How fast are you all driving? Is anyone texting? We don't think of all these concerns every time we travel in a car or by train, so why do we do it for an airplane?

Safety is an accumulation of knowledge about risk converted into practice, and according to Executive Travel Magazine, no other mode of transportation has been as expansive as flying in incorporating what we know about the fallibility of humans and machines.

As a result, the act of hurtling through the air at 500 mph six miles above the ground is less likely to result in your demise than almost any other type of travel.

From the plane seats to the cabin air to the course and altitude of the flight, every decision in commercial aviation comes after careful consideration of its impact on safety.

Although security at airports has always been tight, the 9/11 attacks woke many people up to a harsh reality: it wasn't tight enough.

Cockpit Technology

Many contemporary jetliners have seen their traditional mechanical controls replaced by electronic ones these days. Satellite global positioning, advanced displays, and telecommunication have enabled a level of flight precision impossible in earlier eras of air travel.

"During the 1950s and 1960s, fatal accidents occurred about once every 200,000 flights," says Julie O'Donnell, a spokeswoman for Boeing.

"Today, the worldwide safety record is more than 10 times better, with fatal accidents occurring less than once in every two million flights."

The devices that are considered to have had the most impact such improvement are ones that warn pilots of approaching terrain or potential conflicts with other airplanes.

A Certain Kind of Pilot

"Technology is no substitute for experience, skill, and judgment," explains Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, who sat at the controls of a highly automated Airbus A320 on the day that he and first officer Jeff Skiles put US Airways Flight 1549 down in New York's Hudson River.

One hundred and fifty-five people survived that flight, known as the Miracle on the Hudson—a feat that Sullenberger attributes to a lifetime of flying, as well as preparation, anticipation, and focus.

Airlines know the importance of good pilots and good training, which is why so much effort goes into selection and schooling.

Matthias Kippenberg, a former captain with Lufthansa, is in charge of Lufthansa's Airline Training Center Arizona, where many of the German carrier's 5,000 pilots made their first flights.

"We are looking for a personality that ensures good communication skills, that ensures leadership potential, the ability to work as part of a team and low risk-taking," Kippenberg says.

He notes that Lufthansa "grows its own pilots," often hiring candidates with no flying experience because general aviation in Europe is extremely expensive, and few prospective pilots have acquired skills.

In contrast, according to Executive Travel Magazine, U.S. carriers expect pilots to have accrued hundreds of hours on their own nickel before applying to become commercial pilots.

Airport Control

The airplane and the airport are two entirely separate places where anything can happen and multiple security measures are needed. More visibly, profound improvements in safety can be seen right on the airport property. Movement-detection monitors show every vehicle on every runway, taxiway and terminal gate, and controllers receive warnings of potential collisions. "It is safer now than it ever has been," says Dale Wright, chief of safety for the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. "It reduces risk, and that's what it's all about."

There are countless other things involved in air travel as well even before you get to your plane or even halfway through the airport. Everyone knows that to seem like a professional traveler nowadays, it is necessary to get to your designated airport at least two to three hours before they tell you you're able to board your plane. Getting through airport security simply takes hours.

One of the most important security measures at an airport is confirming the identity of travelers. This is done by checking a photo ID, such as a driver's license. If you are traveling internationally, you need to present your passport as well. Simply taking a look at a photo ID isn't enough, however. The high-tech buzzword in airport security today is biometrics.

According to HowStuffWorks Inc., biometrics essentially means checking fingerprints, retinal scans, and facial patterns using complex computer systems to determine if someone is who they say they are—or if they match a list of people the government has determined might be potential terrorists.

You may have noticed the public address system at an airport replaying an automated message telling you not to leave your bags unattended. And you've probably noticed that check-in attendants are also asking you a few questions that sound a little odd: Has your luggage been in your possession at all times? Has anyone given you anything or asked you to carry on or check any items for them? These are both very important questions. A tactic used on occasion by terrorists is to hide a bomb inside an unsuspecting person's luggage. Another tactic is to give something, maybe a toy or stuffed animal, to someone who is about to board a plane. That innocent-seeming object may actually be a bomb or other harmful device. This is why you need to still perform your own personal security measures when out and about and always keep track of your own belongings.

All public access to an airport is channeled through the terminal, where every person must walk through a metal detector and all items must go through an X-ray machine.

Almost all airport metal detectors are based on pulse induction (PI). Typical PI systems use a coil of wire on one side of the arch as the transmitter and receiver.

If a metal object passes through the metal detector, the pulse creates an opposite magnetic field in the object. When the pulse's magnetic field collapses, causing the reflected pulse, the magnetic field of the object makes it take longer for the reflected pulse to completely disappear.

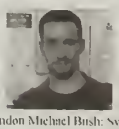
This process works like echoes: If you yell in a room with only a few hard surfaces, you probably hear only a very brief echo, or you may not hear one at all. But if you yell into a room with a lot of hard surfaces, the echo lasts longer.

In a PI metal detector, the magnetic fields from target objects add their "echo" to the reflected pulse, making it last a fraction longer than it would without them.

If the pulse takes more than a few microseconds longer than normal, there is probably a metal object interfering with it. So next time you get frustrated with the ounce size of your makeup, lotion or water bottle that you're allowed to bring, realize it's truly

See Airplanes page 5

Question for the issue: JJC has nearly completed construction on a Harris Bank branch to be located just outside the Center Bridge, across the planetarium. We wanted to know your thoughts and opinions are about the college opening a bank on campus:



Brandon Michael Bush: Sweet! I bank with them that'll be nice!

Jessica Cerven (left): I'm ok with it our high school had a bank too

Rebecca Zamudio (right): Probably to get people to sign up, I think it will be convenient.

Nathaniel Myers: Could be convenient. It's a nice location, right next to the cop station.

Matt Chaparro: They got a cafeteria, they got a store, why not a bank? Somewhere to eat, somewhere to shop, and somewhere to get money to eat and shop.

BLAZER STAFF

Richard Maska
Co-Editor

Alex Fargue
Co-Editor

Brittney Andersen
Production Manager

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Staff Writers:
Brandy Andersen, Elias Albert, Travis Olson, Pat O'Carroll, Jacqueline Bilot, Tim Bunce, Kelsi Bertheume.

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431

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815-280-2313

New club spotlight

3-D printer at Futurists Club debut

BY RICHARD MASKA
Co-Editor

JJC's newest student organization, the Futurists Club, hosted their inaugural Student Activity by demonstrating a 3-D printer, giving students a chance to see the printer's production capabilities.

Held on the Center Bridge on March 20, the event featured a raffle for some of the objects the club produced themselves, such as detailed figurines and household items in an effort to increase the club's exposure.

The Futurists is a student-run club meets weekly to discuss and debate the latest advancements in technology, hoping to project its potential use and impact on society today.

"We explore and teach people about which technology is advancing and where technology can take us and where it's going," said club member Chad Dieska.

During the event, club president Curtis Anderson gave tutorials on how the printer operates, saying that, "Anyone can go into a program and draw a 3-D item in a computer aided drawing program."

After exportation to the correct file type, "you put it on an SD card, slip it in, and boom. It starts printing."

The printer used a plastic laser-centering method wherein the printer, "lays down a layer of metal powder and plastic, and follows behind it with a laser. The laser fuses the metal into a layer and keeps doing that until it builds the object," said Andersen.

According to Anderson, there are very little limitations on the size and shape of a printed object, "If the object is unstable and needs supports to be built, it builds those supports without you even asking."

Though the printer the Futurists were using retails for around $500, the patents for most 3-D printers expired in February, which should open up its marketability and lessen its cost.

By the end of this year, the price for the printer will be cut by 60 percent if trends hold," said Anderson, "So by the end of next year that printer will be available for the home use ... it's an exciting time."

The excitement exists because of the potential impact 3-D printing could have on consumer purchasing as it offers a convenient solution for replacing everyday objects around the house such as electrical outlet covers, or replacement parts for durable items like lawnmowers, furniture, or even car parts.

"Right now if you buy the printer, it will pay for itself in its lifetime as a homeowner, because things break and this can recreate them," said Anderson.

Another benefit is in rapid prototyping, which gives companies and individuals the ability to "design, modify and analyze objects on a computer and within an hour, have a physical prototype," said the Futurists' club advisor professor Andrew Morrison.

"The objects can be extensively detailed," said Dieska, "it does still have it quirks because 3-D printing is still relatively new, but just the possibilities it has and the amount of detail it brings is just amazing."

So how long until 3-D printers become a commonplace item in the house hold?

"It's the same sort of commonplace that the internet and dot-matrix printers were in the 1980s," said Anderson, "It's mostly for hobbyists now, but within five years that won't necessarily be the case."

That sentiment was echoed by Morrison as well, "I'm not sure anybody when they were looking at home dot-matrix printers back in the '80s knew what the future of home printing on paper would be."

Similar to the internet, as the first printers were developed and improved upon in terms of cost and quality, most people view both as household necessities rather than a luxury.

Given how rapid advances in technology have been, the Futurists offer students and its members an inside look at future technological breakthroughs will change the way we live our lives.

Futurists Club president Curtis Andersen explains how the 3-D printer operates. *Photo by: Travis Olson*

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Theologian responds to questions on faith

BY JACQUELINE BILOT

Staff Writer

Christian students curious about their faith's doctrine had the chance to ask their questions to theologian Rick Lieb during Intervarsit Christian Fellowship's event, "Questions for God."

Lich, who has a Master's degree in Systematic Theology, is studying at Trinity International University for his Master's degree in Christian apologetics, a field that aims to provide a rational basis for the faith and defend it from objectors.

Students anonymously wrote questions they had about or for God on a sticky note, and from noon until 2 p.m. Lich read and responded to the questions for an audience seated on the Center Bridge on April 3.

After the questions were read aloud, it was Lieb's job to respond to the questions and answer any related questions if the student needed further clarification. Some of the topics covered were on hell, Old Testament laws, marriage, sin and salvation.

One student asked, is there proof of hell, and if so how can a good and loving God send people there?

"A good and loving God cannot *force you into hell, (and) cannot* force you into heaven."

Lieb said that when people do not feel that the Bible's teachings are best for them, "if that's not for you then heaven is going to be the worst possible place for you."

"You only have one other option, and that's hell. People are not going to be sent there."

Another student asked was whether laws in the Old Testament still apply for us today.

According to Lieb, the New Testament as an upgrade to the Old Testament, and that we still follow many of the Old Testament's laws but that, "They're not held to as a standard," rather, "We learn about the character of God from the Old Testament."

"No car manufacturer creates a car with rust on it," explained Lieb when asked if God born us with original sin, "Cars just get rusty if they're not cared for."

Lieb connects these examples with God. "God put a standard out, and when you choose to not abide in it then that would be sin. God did not create sin, what he created for you was options really."

That God gave humans free will and the option to act as we choose is an appealing aspect about Christianity.

By giving us this choice, we are also given the roadmap to Christian salvation from teachers of the faith, such as Lieb.

JJC continues winning ways

JJC's student-run newspaper won 12 awards at the Illinois Community College Journalism Association annual award ceremony held at Moraine Valley College on April 5.

The staff also received an honorable mention in the category of overall excellence.

Co-editor Richard Maska won a second-place award for columns as well as honorable mention for headline writing.

Sports editor Joel Roza won second-place awards for sports column and sports feature, as well as a third-place award for sports news.

Production manager Brittney Andersen won first place for front page layout and the Blazer staff won both first and second place for best editorials.

Staff writer Elias Albert won a third-place award for sports column.

Photo editor Lindsey Cantrell won honorable mention for photo spread.

Previous photo editor Rene Ronzonne also won an honorable mention for best photo spread.

Culinary achievement

After winning gold last month in the Illinois Culinary State Championship, the JJC culinary program continued its winning ways at the Central U.S. regional competition for the America Culinary Federation.

The team won the bronze medal for culinary knowledge and silver for the hot foods competition at last month's event that was held in St. Louis.

Kristyn Chatlosh won gold in the cold food competition, keeping her in good position for a space on the US Student Culinary Olympic team.

She now moves on to the hot food competition phase of her tryout set to take place in mid-July.

Police Reports

Counterfeiting

Two JJC students from Joliet received in-school disciplinary action after JJC police said the pair reportedly attempted to make change for counterfeit $20 dollar bills.

According to police, the issue was brought to the attention of JJC police after the two suspects allegedly attempted to solicit another student to make change on March 10.

Police said that the two students were at first unaware that they had been given the counterfeit bills.

The evidence was turned over to the Federal United States Secret Service Field Office in Chicago for further examination.

Notice of trespass

John E. Dunmore, Joliet, was issued a Notice of Trespass after JJC police said he knocked loudly on a female student's apartment door at Centennial Commons and demanded to be let inside. The incident took place on March 10 at 11:21 p.m. Police said the female victim will be obtaining an order of protection from Dunmore.

Downed light pole

After JJC police said William Riordan, Homer Glen, struck a light pole which knocked it to the ground after he failed to avoid an accident by reducing his speed on Cwiklo Lane. Police issued Riordan with a citation on March 31. He is scheduled to appear at the Will County Courthouse on May 8.

Property theft

Carlos Lee, Chicago, was arrested and charged with theft under $300 after police said Lee stole a backpack and sold the textbooks inside back to Joliet Textbooks on April 2. Lee is scheduled to appear at the Will County Courthouse on May 15.

Police to aid Special Olympics with dinner

JJC police will be hosting a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Illinois Special Olympics on Wednesday April 30. The event will run from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Wolves Den Cafeteria, and guests dine in or carry out for $7 per plate. All proceeds will go directly to the Special Olympics.

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Airplanes from page 2

for the best.

Just a month after the 9/11 attacks, the President signed a new law that restructured and refocused the airport security efforts of the U.S. The Aviation and Transportation Security Act established a new agency, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The TSA is part of the Department of Homeland Security. The TSA's mission is to prevent attacks on airports or aircraft, prevent accidents and fatalities due to transport of hazardous materials, ensure safety and security of passengers.

Overall, believe it or not, I don't think we will make the same mistakes like 9/11 ever again. With that, there is always going to be the case of someone trying to see how far they can get past the law—but that is in every situation. People try to break the laws everyday. Maybe it's in our nature. But when it's something that is going to harm people in our society, one thing we can be sure of, I think, is that they will at least try and fix it. Airports and airplanes are only getting safer everyday. I believe it's riding in cars and trains that are far more dangerous to society. The fight for safety and security is never over.

Astronomy from page 1

space-time which is the basis of Albert Einstein's theory of relativity. Objects with a large amount of mass and gravitational pull such as stars and galaxies can bend photons towards the object which can distort the image of the object, this is called gravitational lensing.

When light from an object is distorted by gravity, often you only get partial images or multiple images of the same object. The distortion of the image can be corrected and remapped by using mathematics, allowing astronomers to measure the mass of objects whose gravitational pull causes the lensing.

Because of their immense size, astronomers since 1979 have used galaxies and galaxy clusters to observe this lensing, allowing us to look at far-flung astronomical events deep in the past. However, finding gravitational lensing is "hard to do" said Gladders, who outlined the long process that begins with cataloging and photographing to find suitable galaxies to study.

After the galaxies are cataloged, astronomers must first find galaxies that are capable of gravitational lensing; this involves looking at over 300,000 pictures, which must be done by humans.

After examining images, the group was able to narrow the number of candidates to about 1000 galaxies. Once a galaxy is chosen, astronomers can observe and verify the lensing.

Distant galaxy captured in detail due to gravitational lensing effect. *(ESA/ Hubble & NASA)*

Gladders also spoke about new and upcoming space technology, namely the James Webb Space Telescope, which is expected to be launched in 2018 replacing the Hubble Space Telescope.

D'Cruz, who invited Gladders, said the event went very well, and expressed that she tries to host lectures on a diverse number of astronomical topics.

"I think that people have an interest in astronomy and the latest research, and like to learn it in a non-formal setting without all the specific details which is why I like to open these events to the general public."

Gladders also shared this sentiment. "I feel like, it's our job to educate people about science; if you do research and you don't share those results than what is the point of doing research? We all value when we have a society of people who are scientifically literate and have intellect."

Fight from page 1

This year the winner of the 50/50 raffle received $2,200, and another raffle winner scored a trip to Disney World. Some of the other prizes auctioned off included a weekend getaway, autographed sports memorabilia, and multiple rounds of golf.

The first auctioned prize was a party for eight people in the home of the winner, where Ferrara would come with a few students and do a cooking demonstration. This bid started at $250 and was not won until it reached its final price at $1600.

"Friends had it last year, and it was so good, I had to have one this year," said Christina Anderson, the eventual winner.

JJC's vocational skills partnership program represented the school and Ferrara very well with their service and having multiple items. The sushi was especially fantastic.

Guests got to decided on best food, best caterer, best beverage and best dessert. Steve Buresh's Cheesecake Store won best dessert. And while Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant won best beverage, Bolingbrook Golf Club swept the awards for best food and caterer.

United Cerebral Palsy's CEO, Jim Mullins, expressed how impressed and thankful he is for Ferrara. He also discussed advertising for the event, saying the Board of Directors is always trying to fill tables.

Since Bolingbrook Golf Club won for best food, it must be mentioned that their ribs and coleslaw combo was pretty delicious; however, the beef-tip stuffed pastry shells from Hollywood Casino had to be a close-second. Though truth be told, the addition of crème brulee as its dessert certainly helped.

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Cody Boals
I felt very comfortable transferring to Elmhurst because the teachers and other students were so welcoming. Then when I joined the baseball team, I found an instant group of friends.

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The onset of spring at JJC

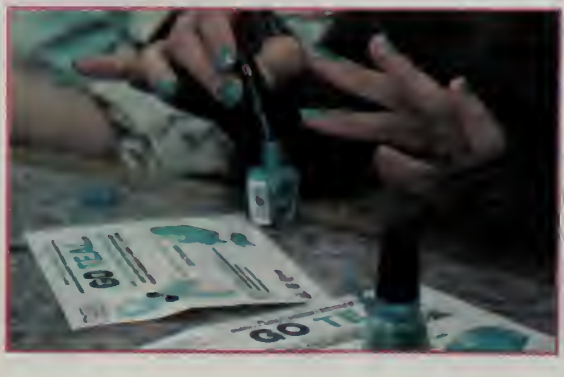
Top: Canadian goose takes flight off the newly thawed JJC lake.

Top: Student contributing to JJC's collective creativity on the poetry wall.

Below: Self-described black/trans/queer poet, J Mase III impressed students with his jovial attitude and spontaneous creativity.

Photos by Lindsey Cantrell

(From left) Kelsi Bertheume, Jessica Garcia and Janki Patel paint their nails teal in support of sexual awareness month.



Enjoy your one-night stay at *'The Grand Budapest Hotel'*

BY PATRICK O'CARROLL

Staff Writer

Wes Anderson has done it again: a phenomenal cast and an even more phenomenal story. His latest motion picture, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, gives us his trademark humor rooted in mellow satire, but doesn't fail in delivering a great raunchy laugh out of nowhere.

According to boxofficemojo.com the film has an outstanding domestic total of just over $33 million as of April 7.

That is surprising given that not many of his films are ones that the public rushes towards.

For that I blame the ridiculous standards of today's youth for comedy. The best example of this would be when I saw the film it was myself one twenty-something woman and four elderly women in the theatre. Granted, that was the early bird showing so I'm not going to jump to any hasty conclusion.

The film is a story within a story: The first story is that of a book written by an two unnamed authors. One in his advanced years, (Tom Wilkinson), and the other (Jude Law) is younger.

The story they both tell is that of the owner of The Grand Budapest Hotel and how he came to own it after starting out only as a lobby boy working for Monsieur Gustave (Ralph Fiennes).

The settings change on the spot while still not being too abrupt and the sophistication of each character is both clear, while at the same time, satirically questionable, which makes for one amazing experience.

As is the norm in theAnderson catalogue, the strongest part is the colorful characters he creates.

Ralph Fiennes as Mr. Gustave is by far my favorite character in the entire film. Fiennes, who is best known for his role as Lord Voldemort in the Harry Potter series, does an impeccable job as the hotel's concierge.

He is both strict as well as understanding as he takes Moustafa (the eventual owner of the Grand Budapest) under his wing and also on an important journey to collect a portrait left by an elderly woman he was having sexual relations with.

Another character worth mentioning is the much smaller role of Deputy Kovacs (Jeff Goldblum). Goldblum has a rare gift for acting his role as being both the center of attention yet also maintaining subtle technique when the scene calls for it.

The scene with Goldblum's character I enjoyed most was a discussion about the elderly women's will with her immediate next of kin in which he upsets the son Dmitri (Adrien Brody).

In his rage Dmitri orders his security specialist Jopling (Willem Dafoe) to throw Kovacs' cat out the window. After which there is a short moment of awkward silence until Kovacs' finally realizes what happened and asks "Did he just throw my cat out the window?"

Morbid? Yes. But its cartoonish and dry approach is hilarious as it plays out on screen.

I really cannot say anything bad about this film. From the great depth of each character to the beautiful settings, coupled with the high-brow comedy and even special cameos from Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, and Tilda Swinton, *The Grand Budapest Hotel* is by far the best comedy this year.

Courtesy of imbd.com

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Book review

Mystery lurking between the lines

BY KELSI BERTHEAUME

Staff Writer

Dead Between the Lines, is the third installment of Denise Swanson's, "Dime Store Mystery" series, and was released to much fan fare on March 4. This is an adult mystery, and much like Swanson's previous work, it does contain sexual references.

In this addition, the main character Devereaux, also known as Dev, hosts a book club that featured a famous poet to speak to the members of the group. This turns out to be a bad idea because it leads to the poet's murder behind Dev's store.

As usual with Swanson's work, the protagonist winds up getting caught up in the investigation of the murder. But much like the other times, this ends up a good thing because the victim was killed behind her store, adding to the intrigue as the question raised is whether or not the killer meant to kill Dev instead of the poet?

Also in this book Dev is still in her love triangle with her two boyfriends, Dr. Noah Underwood and Deputy U.S. Marshal Jake Del Vecchio, makes for a really good book with some sexual references in it.

I'm not going to spoil the book, and it does have its differences between Swanson's previous works, but it is attention grabbing nevertheless. And seeing as this is the third book in Swanson's "Dime Store Mysteries" series, I did expect that.

The plot and story line are great and while the book starts off a little slow, but once the plot got going, I could not put the book down.

The book gives us the viewpoints of the two boyfriends Dev has, which makes for a nice break in the investigation and from gathering the clues, so you can solve the murder alongside Dev.

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Poet from page 1

adults in spaces such as faith communities, elementary schools, domestic violence shelters, medical agencies, juvenile justice organizations, and foster care programs, among others.

When Mase visited Joliet Junior College, he had planned for a poetry-filled day for students and some faculty. From 9 to 10 a.m. Mase lead a workshop on performance poetry for students who had wondered what spoken word poetry is and why it is used as a medium as opposed to written poetry.

Students were encouraged to come by and learn some poetry techniques and start to write their own work.

During the live performance in the afternoon at Joliet Junior College, Mase started out telling his story on how he grew into the position he's in now. He quit his job and had a passion for poetry.

Every time someone "messed up" in saying something offensive to him or someone around him, he took out that frustration on how people are treated and put it into a poem.

His ability to relate to others showed with his inspiration to fill the room for those that watched him.

This event was a collaborative effort from the Wordeater, G.L.O.W., and Safe Zone clubs, along with members of the English Department on campus and it was a big success for all who attended.

If you have questions or want to learn more about J Mase III, where he's performing next, or just want to have him read some of your personal work, visit his website at jmaseiii.com and see the link on leaving your information to get in contact with him.

Deep Cuts:

Strange Highways by Dio

BY JOEL ROZA
Staff Writer

In 1993, Ronnie James Dio was once again a free agent in the rock world, opting to depart his second stint with Black Sabbath after the band had positioned itself for an ill-conceived reunion with Ozzy Osbourne.

This stretch with Sabbath was far shorter than his first (1980-1982), yielding just one album – 1992's *Dehumanizer* – and one tour in support of it.

Though the Sabbath reunion resulted in a similar ending as the first go-round, it registered a landmark shift in Dio's lyrical style, pushing him away from the dungeons and dragons fantasy stuff, and more into a progressive, futuristic form of storytelling.

Though *Dehumanizer* barely registered on the charts (peaking at #44 on the U.S. Top 200), it became a cult favorite of Sabbath and Dio fans alike. The progressively dark content was something that Dio would carry over to 1993, when he revived his solo band, Dio, which had been on indefinite hiatus.

Once again, it would be Dio and drummer Vinnie Appice, who had left Sabbath after the conclusion of the *Dehumanizer* tour, looking for new bandmates to carry on with. The band would fall together quickly with guitarist Tracy "G" Grijalva and bassist/keyboardist Jeff Pilson completing the new incarnation of Dio.

The resulting album upon this new union, *Strange Highways*, was a pretty big departure from the last Dio release, 1990's *Lock Up The Wolves*, but – again – seemed like a continuation of the Sabbath classic he had just recorded in '92.

Starting off with the sinister "Jesus, Mary & The Holy Ghost," the album immediately strikes the vein of Dio's real-world cynicism. The music is noticeably heavier throughout, and it doesn't provide much in the way of light.

You can almost hear the disdain in Dio's voice as he charges on through an album many label as Dio's heaviest and darkest.

You have to remember that, at this point, the rock scene in America was saturated with grunge like Nirvana, Alice In Chains, Soundgarden, and Pearl Jam (not to mention their endless off-shoot bands), and alternative rock that was beginning to take hold of the key demographic that heavy metal had, for so long, owned.

Had Dehumanizer been released in 2002 instead of

Courtesy of mimabd.com

1992, it would have exploded on the charts. Same thing with *Strange Highways*: it's an album ahead of its time, finding its audience a decade or so after its release. Despite its lack of chart success, this album deserves your attention.

On top of the lead track, songs like "Hollywood Black," "Evilution," "Firehead," and "One Foot in the Grave" are titanic tunes that showcase the band's gloriously heavy unity as they fire away on cylinders.

The album takes a brief break from the brutality at the beginning of "Give Her The Gun," though the quiet doesn't last long as the album turns into one of the heavier, more varied monsters the album features.

For a guy who recorded music professionally from the late 1950's until his death in 2010, it's quite a statement to label one, entire record as that person's most underrated. But that's where I stand. It doesn't have the cult following that *Dehumanizer* does, and it's largely loved by those who own it or have heard it.

Its greatness isn't contested by, really, anyone. Other Dio releases outside of his first three are either loved or hated, but Dio really did a fine job creating an album that satisfied so many die-hard metalheads' checklists.

I know a lot of people who know and respect Dio's music and talent, but always hit me up with the whole "I just don't like the whole fantasy thing he does."

That's fine, we all have our flavors. But I always reference *Dehumanizer* and *Strange Highways* for those fans who can't seem to settle on the side of Dio they prefer. Luckily, I love everything he did.

Strange Highways is a bright spot in a trouble decade for Dio. His next release, 1996's Angry Machines, wasn't nearly up to par with his previous work, and he refrained from anymore studio outings until 2000's *Magica*, a long-awaited Dio concept album.

After that, Dio would post only two more solo studio albums – 2002's *Killing The Dragon* (a PHENOMENAL album) and 2005's *Master of the Moon* before he would reunite with his Sabbath cohorts for a reunion that would last until his untimely death in May 2010.

Though Dio is no longer with us, creating incredible new music, his five-decades of Rock 'N Roll majesty are well-documented and more than enough to keep fans, new and old alike, busy for ages. So grab this record. Do it now.

Strange Highways is available for streaming on Spotify, for download on iTunes, and for physical purchase at all digital outlets.

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Will County area fishing report

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Thanks to the help from Angelo's Bait Shop and reader contributions, we ensure that no time spent outdoors is time wasted.

We advocate catch and release and sustainable hunting and fishing that promotes a healthy ecosystem for generations to come.

Mazonia and the strip mine lakes: The fishing has been slow on many of Mazonia's lakes; Mike Gorman of Angelo's Bait reports a lot of dead and floating fish, especially in the smaller ponds. This fish-kill is the result of oxygen deprivation suffered during the winter, as heavy snowfall kept sunlight from passing through the ice and lowered the algae and oxygen levels.

Braidwood Lake: Braidwood is already reaching 70 degrees in the warmer areas and inlets, whereas the lake's main body has been in the 60s. Largemouth are already in their pre-spawn stage, and anglers have brought in good numbers using watermelon colored senko/stick baits, black and blue chatterbaits, and chartreuse spinners. Slow retrievals have yielded best results.

LaSalle Lake: While it has produced fair numbers of its trademark striped bass, the real phenomenon has been the numbers of blue catfish in the 30 pound range caught recently. Live shad and sucker baits can be used, others have had good luck using a rooster-tail spinner bait suspended 15 feet down in water up to 20 to 30 feet down.

Heidecke Lake: Good numbers of crappies being caught on small jigs tipped with minnows in 6-7 feet of water.

Kankakee River: Walleye and smallmouth action have been heating up as of late. Gorman reported several walleye caught between 16 and 22 inches using crankbaits or minnow-tipped jigs underneath the Wilmington dam.

Fishermen beware: All smallmouth bass caught in rivers or streams between April 1 and June 15 must be released regardless of size. Punishable by law, the measure helps protect the species during spawning season when they are most vulnerable.

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Lady Wolves show resiliency through their early struggles

By Elias Albert
Staff Writer

Athletes are at times seen as warriors because of their fierce nature and ability to conquer obstacles, and there's no doubt that the warrior mentality can be applied to the Lady Wolves softball team.

With the weather beginning to warm up, the heart of the season is fast approaching. After a bit of a challenging start due to a long-distance road trip and challenging weather and field conditions caused by our "Winter Vortex" in 2014, they have managed to get on the winning side of the scoreboard in recent times.

The Lady Wolves notched their first win of the season at home against Oakton Community College on March 9, on the second half of a doubleheader by a score of 5-3. They would dance the victory dance nine days later against Triton, sending the Lady Trojans packing after beating them 7-5 and 6-1 during the double-header.

However, the challenge of the long-haul known as the regular season has taken its toll on both the players and their record.

"We have battled lots of injuries this year, especially with our pitching staff," said coach Emily Marino.

Though the weather has gotten better, consistency is still hard to come by, and with the injuries that the team has seen, it is nearly impossible to develop any momentum against the level of competition that the Lady Wolves face each game.

This they learned against College of DuPage, who are 7-1 in conference play after dealing the Wolves losses on both games of an April 10 doubleheader.

Battered, the Wolves have faced some tough situations in games like these, where their pitching and defense are consistently tested by the high-powered offenses in Region IV.

Despite their unfortunate difficulty, which has their record standing at 3-17 overall and 2-6 in conference play, there are still plenty of available positives for the Lady Wolves.

For one, Emma Trama has without a doubt been a standout, batting .509 and contributing to the scoring effort additionally with 20 stolen bases.

Along with her strong play on offense, Marino praised Trama for her efficient defensive and echoed those comments when talking about Stephanie Stanton for her defensive play.

"I think as a team, we are pretty solid defensively," said Marino.

It is the offensive side of the ball where the team needs to be better.

"We need to continue improving our approach to the plate and having quality at bats. We have not capitalized on scoring runs when we have them in scoring position."

A strong offensive presence is critical to any softball team, but in the offensively loaded conference the Wolves play in, it becomes paramount.

One should believe that Marino will place emphasis on the issues at hand with her team and that the Lady Wolves will react in a positive fashion.

To place everything into perspective, it had been a tough and challenging test thus far this season, and without a doubt they've definitely had their ups and their downs.

However, with the help of their coach and will to win, there is definitely a strong sense optimism for the remainder of the year for both the team and the fan base. "

We need to continue to improve," said Marino, "Hopefully we can start playing our best softball when the Region IV tournament comes around."

Starting on April 11, the Lady Wolves will play 17 of their next 13 games on the road followed by the May 2 Region IV Tournament.

The remainder of the season is more than worth following to see how the Lady Wolves will finish.

Stephanie Stanton has been a defensive stalwart this season
Photo Courtesy: jjc.edu

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Off and running after slow start

BY JOEL ROZA

Sports Editor

After a 3-8 start to what was hoped to be a major rebound season for JJC's heralded baseball program, the lights have come on and the wins have poured in for the Wolves to the tune of 17-4 (12-2 home) since that rocky start.

The impetus of this remarkable turnaround has been a mix of brute strength by the team's electric offense, and a vast improvement by their starting rotation, most notably by southpaw Josh Jimenez.

Jimenez started the season off roughly, but has bounced back in a big way, leading the team in strikeouts (36), wins (4, tied with Thomas Goodyear and Kevin Ruff), and is second on the team in ERA (3.52) and innings pitched (30.2).

Righty Matt DeGraw has been the staff's workhorse, accumulating a 3-3 record in 7 games, with a team-leading 3.93 ERA through 37.0 IP, with 4 complete games. DeGraw's low strikeout total (14) has not hindered his ability to produce outs, as he's been able to efficiently and effectively pitch to contact and produce zeroes the hard way.

The well-documented weakness of the team, the bullpen, has managed to hold onto big leads that the offense gives them, and remain largely out of the equation in tight contests.

"The bullpen is still a problem," said Wolves head coach Wayne King. "Jose Mendoza has come out [and] thrown pretty well, but [we're] not getting what we need from that group."

On a national level, the Wolves are finally making the mark they were expected to when they were featured as the National Top 10 preseason poll winner.

Currently, JJC ranks third in the nation in doubles, triples and shutouts, fourth in total bases and runs scored, and fifth in runs batted in.

The team has also managed to re-enter the Top 10 Poll at number nine, a direct result of their recent barrage of offensive-fueled wins.

Defensively, the team is finding it tough field balls cleanly, producing a less-than-stellar .946 fielding percentage, with a discomforting 45 errors in all.

"[Errors are] why we lost to Kankakee," said King, who's referring to the team's lone hiccup during this streak, a 7-6 loss which featured 5 errors on April 2.

It seems silly to nitpick at the little discrepancies during such a high time, but in baseball, the slightest show of weakness – even in good times – can be a team's undoing when the going gets tough.

This past Saturday (April 12), the Wolves committed 10 errors combined that made a world of difference in both losses to Madison College.

The first game featured three throwing errors from INF Kevin Hatcher, who had taken over for 3B Tyler Thorson, who suffered an apparent shoulder injury in the second inning of the game. INF Jeff Duschene eventually took over the hot corner, where he too committed an error.

With the game seemingly out of reach with Madison up 10-3 heading into the bottom of the 7th inning, the Wolves attacked Madison reliever Michael Pleimling, putting all four men he faced on base, with them all scoring eventually.

1F/P Brandon Gibis then came on, giving up a powerful two-run double to JJC catcher T.J. Condon, and eventually allowing JJC to crawl back to within a run with one out and the tying run at second base.

Unfortunately, the Madison Wolfpack retired the next two batters, stranding the tying run at third and sending JJC to just their second home loss of the season.

Jake Kozlowski fires a pitch against Madison.

T.J. Condon crushes a two-run double against Madison.

FLEETING WEAKNESSES COULD BECOME MAJOR PROBLEMS

For all of the great things the team has done at the dish, and for all of the strides being made on the mound, the weaknesses are something that will creep up on this team if those deficiencies aren't met with focused improvement.

As conference games start to come at the Wolves in waves, their mettle will be tested.

Can they rely on the bullpen? Can they rely on their workhorses? Will the defense come through and make the plays expected of them?

Will the offense still have fuel when the miles pile up on their bats and their bodies?

If the answer to every one of those questions isn't "yes," the Wolves may find themselves looking at an early off-season.

Photos by: Lindsey Cantrell

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Nick Fleischauer is batting .457 with 20 RBIs so far this season. He smashed two of his 12 doubles in a win over Milwaukee Tech on April 5. Fleischauer also added two hits against Black Hawk College on April 10.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Stephanie Stanton has been solid behind the plate this season, earning high praise from head coach Emily Marino for her defensive play.
She is also among the team's hitting leaders batting .391 with 11 RBIs over 18 games so far.

INSIDE

Get ideas on how to make the most of summer break.

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Get all the info about ACEN; Chicago's largest anime convention.

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Wolves finish season strong; looking ahead towards playoffs.

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Joliet Junior College

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Entertaining week of events at JJC

Sharp-dressed men: Chicago-based comedy troupe MISSION IMPROVable whips audience up into laughter on day two of Spring Fling.
Photo by Lindsey Cantrell

BY LINDSEY CANTRELL
Staff Writer

Earth Day and Spring Fling were well celebrated at JJC and filled with events put on by OSA's activities board over a three day period.

On April 22, Earth Day was celebrated on the Center Bridge starting off with a Recycled Art Show that held pieces from JJC students among many other booths promoting the Earth and raising awareness for the environment.

There was also a raffle held for the artwork presented after the best piece was voted for. Each person was given two pop bottle tops or pop tabs to place their vote in the bag of their favorite artwork. The artwork with the most votes had 89 votes by the end of the day.

Pierre Palacios' motorcycle piece, made of old silverware and scrap metal, won first place winning him a $100 visa gift card donated by Student Government.

The second place artwork was submitted by Karla Gossen and Steven Keeley. Their to-scale R2D2 received 81 votes and was made out of pop-cans, cardboard, poster-board and some wood. They received a $75 visa card.

The third place winner was Kate Miller. She won $50 visa card for her trees made of metal, clock parts, and crocheted wire for the leaves. Her entry got 68 votes. There were many other entries displayed as well.

In addition, Student Government also had a Wheel of Trivia with Earth Day questions. If answered correctly, an Earth

See Spring on page 4

Auto Dept. has high-octane showing

BY TRAVIS OLSON
Staff Writer

Once again the JJC Automotive department won the Illinois Skills USA Competition, which was held recently last April.

"The competition covers everything from what a mechanic would know to every automotive category," said Sergio Gonzales, a student from the JJC automotive class. "Once a week during lunch breaks, time was taken out to study one of the several categories to all the students to prepare what might be on the written tests," said fellow contestant, Matt Heckler.

"There was written tests and interviews, and several other sections," said Gonzales.

The competition itself takes place in three phases: the first was a written qualifying exam with about 100 questions covering almost all areas of repair and maintenance.

"We had 25 students take the written exam, and then the top 15 students are invited for the hands on competition in Springfield in the first part of April," said Jim Coleman, professor at JJC's Automotive department.

In the second phase, the Hands-on Competition, contestants put their automotive skills to the test on 18 highly varied mechanical subjects.

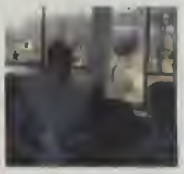
JJC had ten students qualify for advancement out of the 15 that were eligible.

The competition was grueling; contestants spent 15 to 20 minutes at each station and were tested on suspension alignments, electrical diagnosis, transmission repair, engine repair, and air condition testing and several other subjects.

"The students who placed highest in those tests were placed as state champion, and invited to go to the national event which takes place this year in Kansas City, Missouri. There, the top student from each of the 50 states goes head to head," said Coleman.

"It's six to seven hours of straight competition, with no

Earth Day spotlighted



Randy Juras, of Citizens Against Ruining the Environment (CARE), explains the dangers of coal ash.
Photo by Richard Maska

BY RICHARD MASKA
Co-Editor

With the spring season finally upon us, advocates for environmental protection and conservation converged on the Center Bridge at JJC to promote activism and celebrate Earth Day.

The holiday has been observed since 1970, and its importance is a testament to our commitment and responsibility to minimize the damage caused to the environment.

Groups represented by both students and community members set up booths and kiosks with informative graphics and demonstration pieces.

On the bridge's south side, Student Government sponsored a Recycled Art Show. Recycled Art Show, which displayed sculpted works of art made entirely of recycled and left over items.

Students voted on the best sculpture and were offered the chance to compete in an environmental trivia wheel, where winners received "Earth Day at JJC" tee-shirts.

The opposite side of the bridge held eight separate booths run by student clubs, volunteer and advocacy groups, and informative presentations.

"I think we need to realize were all connected," said Maria Rafac, the sustainability coordinator for the event

See Earth on page 6

EDITORIAL

Make the most out of your summer

While the weather has not allowed us feel the season's change into summer, we all know it's approaching, and we all have plans and ideas for what to do during the break.

Whether you're heading out on vacation, attending summer classes, trying to make a few extra bucks, or just plan on lounging around the whole time, come fall semester, the worst feeling one can have is that the break was wasted, and that there was still plenty on the table to do.

If you don't have major plans, than usually the first objective that comes to mind when school let's out for summer is to simply relax and go into full-fledged vegetative mode.

And this is easy to acomplish: sleep in too late, turn on the TV, and try as best you can at keeping only your underwear on.

It's understandable considering many have not had a break of any length of time since last fall semester started.

But as the days slip by, an overwhelming feeling begins to creep in: it's becoming a waste of time, and something needs to be done to rectify one's slothness, as tempting as it may be to keep that up.

So here are some ideas to consider as the summer heat beckons you to finally roll off the bed or couch.

Outdoor fun

After the kind of winter we had, many have been irking to actually enjoy being outside to enjoy the fresh air, reconnect with nature, and in the process, color in that now-pale complexion with a tan without the help of a UV-ray coffin.

Camping is a good option, especially when you can afford to tune-out your cellphones, and the Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram obligations that accompany it. Because as much as we love them, most can agree that spending some time off the grid helps us to unwind with a clear head.

Kankakee River State Park is an excellent option for potential campers. The park covers a large area and offers ample oppourtunities to go hiking, canoeing or kayaking, and go fishing.

Starved Rock offers a unique blend of natural scenery and historical sub-context with the park's infamous story of Native American settlement and conflict.

Everything is great downtown

When you live near the third largest city in the country and one of the great cultural centers in the world, grabbing a group of friends and heading to downtown Chicago is never a poor choice.

While food and parking is always expensive, the city does offer free admission for a number of museums and institutions.

While in Chicago, you should visit the Federal Reserve Bank museum which is always free, and learn how money is printed, how it's destroyed, and how it is circulated into the financial system and the effects that these decisions and actions have.

Speaking of museums, Art Institute of Chicago has free admission on Thursday nights after 5 p.m. If art bores you, then keep looking and something will eventually strike your eye.

And you don't need to be an expert to appreciate great works of art; part of the beauty of art is that it grants you the license to appreciate anything of your choice.

It is perfectly fine if work by Picasso strikes you as garbage, but find street graffiti appealing, it's your opinion and your preference.

True, Picasso might have disagreed with that assertion, but he would certainly endorse and defend your ability to make that choice.

Then there is always the Museum of Science And Industry which has free admission days which are listed on the museum's website.

Visiting the zoo with friends can also be a lot of fun. Lincoln Park Zoo is a free zoo located in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago.

Also located in Lincoln Park is North Avenue Beach which a public beach, so after you spend time looking at all the animals, hit the beach for some afternoon fun.

School and work

For those with summer classes or part-time jobs on the docket, it can be a little demoralizing when half of your daytime hours are spent indoors.

The good news is that it let's you get ahead on your academic calendar, and if you have a job, to finally earn some well needed spendin' cash.

It's also a great oppourtunity to solidify your plans to transfer out of JJC by visiting colleges, talking to counselors, and working out things financially.

Whatever you do, above all, stay smart, and stay safe. No one wants to be that idiot that has to explain to your classmates that the east on your arm is because you drunkenly tried riding on a Rip-Stick for the first time.

Correction

In the April 16 edition of the Blazer, we misreported the opening of a Harris Bank on campus. The bank is actually U.S. Bank.

Question for the issue:

With the semester drawing to a close, and summer fast approaching, students are finalizing the plans for a well-deserved break. Some have vacation and relaxation on the mind, while others plan to attend summer classes or work a part-time job. We wanted to know, and we asked students this: What are your plans for this summer, and what is your ideal summer break?

Sandra Mancera: "Well my plans are summer classes here at JJC, so no break." Ideally though? "Vacation somewhere; somewhere warm and away from the winter."

Adan Estrada: "Maybe going to Mexico ... usually every year we go, me and my family"

Peter Findura. "I don't have much of a break, t'll be doing my CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant program) here at JJC." Findura's actual preference: "Probably hanging out at the beach in the sun, but not this summer I guess."

Lakin Caviness: "Working and vacation to Michigan ... we go to the beach and we camp." Her ideal summer break? "Not working."

BLAZER STAFF

Richard Masko
Co-Editor

Alex Forgue
Co-Editor

Brittney Andersen
Production Manager

Sarah Lake
Advertising Manager

Lindsey Cantrell
Photographer/Photo Editor

Ivon Morales
Copy Editor

Victoria Shiner
Copy Editor

Joel Roza
Sports Editor

Staff Writers:
Brandy Andersen, Elias Albert, Travis Olson, Pat O'Carroll, Jacqueline Bilot, Brittney Andersen, Tim Bunce.

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

Contact information:

Blazer
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431

Phone number:
815-280-2313

Political analysis

Early presidential endorsement out of left field

BY ALEX FORGUE

Co-Editor

With only two years to the next presidential election, the conversation on who is going to run or not has already begun.

Both the Republicans and the Democrats are trying to take control of the throne.

However, many Americans have begun to have an overall sentiment that neither party will fulfill the needs of the people.

In order to restore this faith, both parties are looking at possible candidates that will motivate the people to vote for them.

On the Republican side, many conservatives are hoping that Chris Christie, governor of New Jersey, adds his name to the ballot.

Christie has gain a lot of popularity and support with his strong charisma and conservative attitude.

Other candidates for the Republican Party include Marco Rubio, Arizona governor, Jan Brewer, and Senator Ted Cruz.

On the left, many have the idea that Hillary Clinton will run again for president, and win.

Clinton ran in 2008, but lost to current President Barack Obama. Many liberals have come out and endorsed Hillary who has yet to declare publicly whether or not if she will be running. Others in the Democratic Party are hoping to see Vice President Joe Biden run for office as well.

However all the candidates listed above are not nearly as qualified to be president than Senator Bernie Sanders from Vermont.

Sanders is a life-long and the longest-serving independent in the senate.

Sanders has been in office since 1981 when he first served as the mayor Burlington, Vermont until 1989.

Then in 1991, Sanders continued his political career as was elected into the US House of Representatives where he served for the next 16 years. In 2007, he took the office of US Senator from Vermont.

Unlike most politicians, Sanders is very open about his policies, and is not afraid to admit that he is a socialist.

Honesty has always been one of Sanders' strong points, Sanders believes in a transparent government.

He voted in favor of the DISCLOSE Act which would make the information on which companies donated to each candidates to the public, the act also bans US companies manage by foreign interests to donate to candidates.

"Allowing corporations to donate unlimited money to buy elections has destroyed our country's economy."
-Stance of potential Presidential candidate, Bernie Sanders.

While on the topic of foreign interests, Sanders also opposed the Iraq from the start while most Democrats voted in favor of it. Sanders is also an out-spoken opponent of the Transpacific Partnership which provides less regulation to foreign trade as well as benefits only the mega-rich.

Ending poverty is Sanders' strongest passion.

Sanders has been a strong supporter of the Occupy Wall Street Movement, and has brought that voice to Washington D.C.

He has given numerous filler hustens as well as speeches to Congress about his support for the movement, and the need to heavily reform how Washington D.C. operates.

Sanders has pushed for a bill that overturns the Citizens United case by the Supreme Court which legally declares corporations as "people" and that corporations have a the right to donate unlimited amounts of money to campaigns.

This is what Sanders understands as the root of many of the economic problems that America and the world is facing right now.

Sanders has explained that allowing corporations to donate unlimited money to buy elections , has destroyed our country's democracy.

Sanders believes that Wall Street runs congress which is why so many financial regulations have been removed which led to the lending and banking crisis back in 2007 and 2008.

Corporate lobbying has also led to anti-union laws, tax breaks for the rich, and bailouts and subsidies to multi-billion dollar businesses while programs like food stamps, education, and Medicare continues to be cut.

Sanders opposes any cuts made to these social programs and demands an tax increase on the rich as well as an end to all corporate-tax loopholes.

Sanders is also a supporter of personal freedom. Sanders is a strong supported for free-speech, LGBTQ rights, and an advocate for reproductive rights such as abortion or contraceptives.

He has also been a strong advocate of protection religious liberty of all religions and supports the separation of church and state.

Right now, Sanders is faced with the decision of running on the Democratic ticket or to run as an independent.

Sanders realizes that running as a Democrat will get him into the debates and allow him to reach more people which will allow him a better chance of winning.

Sanders also feels like remaining an independent would be beneficial to him since he has always been an independent and that a lot of Americans are fed up with both the Democrats and the Republicans.

It seems that Sanders is leaning more towards running as a Democrat since he personally does not have the money to run as an independent and because he caucuses with the Democrats and counts as a Democrat for voting purposes.

Whatever Sanders decides, he is the ideal candidate to run for president.

Attention!

The Blazer will be looking for new writers and staff for next semester.

Join up and gain valueable experience while building up your resume and portfolio.

Spotlight on the 'Human I-pod'

BY JACQUELINE BILOT
Staff Writer

OSA pulled out all the stops in the semester's last round of student activities for celebrations on Spring Fling week, a two-day event that was held on the Center Bridge. The event featured live music and comedy performances, free food, and student-interactive activities.

Headlining the first day on April 23 was musician and singer John Rush, (AKA, "the Human I-pod") whose act has the audience ask what songs they wanted to him to play instead of having pre-determined set-list.

By using such participation in his method, Rush gets his audience to interact with him, which sets him apart from other acts and performers.

Many of the songs requested, such as "Soul Sister," "Ho Hey," "Don't Stop Believing" and "Home," showed Rush's versatility and expansive repertoire.

They also illustrated his talent as a musician, as each requested song was played and sang by melody.

"The guitar parts are all pretty easy to remember because I hear the melody in my head," said Rush on his website.

"But the lyrics are the hard part. I picture them as a story and if I can see the story, I can sing the song."

He has been called a "Human iPod" because of his amazing ability to play "more than 65 hours of music upon request!" proclaimed Rush, adding that there are no repeats in his potential set list.

Rush grew up in Alabama and has been playing guitar since he was 12 years old.

He played in several bands in high school before going to Athens, Ga., where he attended the University of Georgia for three and a half years.

After he left college, Rush moved to Nashville and became a well-known musician in city's competitive scene despite his initial disclaimer of not playing country, because he did not at the time.

Now he can play almost any popular song that you can think of: blues, rock, pop, and yes, country music.

Armed only with his guitar, a looping machine and sometimes a harmonica, he demonstrated how he can play the piano, drum, saxophone and many other instrumental sounds with his guitar.

To make himself a one man band, Rush looped key music sequences that he played on stage, and used it as the rhythm backdrop for the rest of the song

All the songs Rush plays are from memory and are not prerecorded.

This is because, as Rush puts it, "if you go to hear a live band then you want to hear live music not a recording."

Rush also writes his own music and played some of his own songs at the concert, including some from his latest album, Always Touring.

For Rush, the album's title is altogether fitting as he travels around the country playing at college campuses, and clubs.

Rush's next concert in Illinois will be on June 26 for the Quincy Park District Concert Series, at Madison Park.

The concert series features lives performances spread over four Thursday nights each summer. The July 17 concert will feature 88 Keys and the Truth, a group that had just recently played at an OSA sponsored event on the Center Bridge earlier this spring.

To find additional information on Rush, or to look up additional tour dates, visit his website at www.johnrush.com

Rush is a frequent performer at colleges across the country.
Photo by Jacqueline Bilot

Spring from page 1

Day t-shirt was the prize.

On April 23 and 24, Spring Fling was also a bit hit on the bridge. John Rush, (AKA The Human I-pod) performed on day one.

John Rush took students on a musical journey like no other one-man show can. Singing and playing guitar, bass, harmonica, piano, saxophone, banjo, keyboard and percussion John Rush plays his own original music and songs requested to him.

Wowing audiences with his guitar work and capturing them with his vocals and lyrics, John Rush recently won Campus Entertainer of the Year and Campus Awards Musician of the Year.

He has opened up for, and played with many other famous music acts and has released three albums to date.

Day two of Spring Fling was met with a one-of-a-kind improv act. The agents of MISSION IMPROVable Comedy Team (MI) are just a few audience suggestions away from creating a brand new and original production that's all about whatever the audience tells them.

This fast-paced and exciting new form of comedy is a combination of MTV's "Wild 'N' Out" and "Who's Line is it Anyway?" but there is a bit of a twist.

Just like in the old TV series "Mission Impossible," the Chicagoan actors in Mission IMPROVable pretend to be agents.

The audience members are the co-agents and participate in the hilarious theater games or "missions" by yelling out suggestions. The on-the-spot randomness provided by the audience makes each mission truly unique and very often hysterical.

These guys brought great entertainment and laughs to all that came to watch them. This new improvisational comedy troupe, Mission IMPROVable, is infectious and hot.

A regular at festivals and colleges across the country, Mission IMPROVable give a show that leaves audience with a smile on their face and their stomach aching from laughter.

So, you want to try being an agent, huh? You're not alone. Often people get so involved with the show that they want to try improv themselves. For that reason, MISSION IMPROVable Comedy Team has created IMPROV BOOTCAMP, a series of on-site improvisational comedy workshops.

"We offer several classes that cater to all comedic levels from the first time stage freshman to the seasoned senior comic," said the troupe. "We make sure that everyone has fun!"

They were the hit of the week with many of their acts including students replacing the arms of the performers, text conversations, crowd involvement and finally, the guessing game without words.

For more information on this team and more, visit their website for all the details at www.missioniimprovable.com/site.

Overall, Spring Fling and Earth Day were filled with entertainment that satisfied every avenue of interest at Joliet Junior College.

Improv at its funniest: when the comics aren't afraid to look like a fool.
Photo by Lindsey Cantrell

Police Reports

Illegal possession of alcohol

JJC police issued Benjamin Miller, Bolingbrook, two citations on April 10, one for a traffic violation and the other for possession and transportation of alcohol, according to police reports. Police said Miller was stopped at 12:33 a.m. on Centennial Drive. He is scheduled to appear at the Will County Courthouse on May 15.

In-State Warrant arrest

JJC police arrested Patricia Hughes, Joliet, for an outstanding In-State Warrant on April 8 at 3:31 p.m., according to reports. The arrest took place at JJC Main Campus. Hughes was later transported to the Will County Adult Detention Facility where bail was set at $3,800.

Unsolicited sexual contact

Dalan Beard, Bolingbrook, was issued a notice of trespass to all JJC properties on April 7, at 7 p.m. Police said Beard repeatedly and inappropriately touched a female student on her shoulder and breast area, causing her to become uncomfortable.

Two traffic violations issued

JJC police issued Joy McCombs, Joliet, a traffic citation after police said McCombs was operating an unmsured vehicle. The incident took place on Houbolt Road and Cathy Drive at 8:54 p.m., on April 5. According to police, McCombs was also given a verbal warning for operating a vehicle without headlights or taillights. McCombs is scheduled to appear at the Will County CourtHouse on May 15.

Joshua Printy, Morris, was issued a traffic citation by JJC police on April 8 at 11:53 p.m., after police said Printy was operating an unmsured vehicle. According to police, Printy was stopped at Houbolt Road and I-80 and given a verbal warning for no rear registration light. Printy is due at the Will County Courthouse on May 15.

Final exam schedule

Find the first day the class meets each week.

If the class starts between these times-	Then FINAL EXAM will be held:	
Monday 7:05a – 8:00a	Monday, May 12	7:45a 9:45a
8:15a – 9:45a	Wednesday, May 14	7:45a 9:45a
10:00a – 10:45a	Wednesday, May 14	10:00a 12:00p
11:00a – 11:45a	Monday, May 12	10:00a 12:00p
12:00p – 12:45p	Monday, May 12	12:15p 2:15p
1:00p – 1:45p	Wednesday, May 14	12:15p 2:15p
2:00p – 2:45p	Monday, May 12	2:30p 4:30p
3:00p – 3:45p	Wednesday, May 14	2:30p 4:30p
4:00p – 5:50p	Monday, May 12	4:45p 6:45p
6:00p – 7:00p	Monday, May 12	7:00p 9:00p
Tuesday 7:05a – 8:30a	Tuesday, May 13	7:45a 9:45a
9:00a – 9:45a	Thursday, May 15	7:45a 9:45a
10:00a – 10:45a	Thursday, May 15	10:00a 12:00p
11:00a – 11:45a	Tuesday, May 13	10:00a 12:00p
12:00p – 12:45p	Tuesday, May 13	12:15p 2:15p
1:00p – 1:45p	Thursday, May 15	12:15p 2:15p
2:00p – 2:45p	Tuesday, May 13	2:30p 4:30p
3:00p – 3:45p	Thursday, May 15	2:30p 4:30p
4:00p – 5:50p	Tuesday, May 13	4:45p 6:45p
6:00p – 7:00p	Tuesday, May 13	7:00p 9:00p
Wednesday 7:05a – 8:00a	Monday, May 12	7:45a 9:45a
8:15a – 9:45a	Wednesday, May 14	7:45a 9:45a
10:00A – 10:45a	Wednesday, May 14	10:00a 12:00p
11:00a – 11:45a	Monday, May 12	10:00a 12:00p
12:00p – 12:45p	Monday, May 12	12:15p 2:15p
1:00p – 1:45p	Wednesday, May 14	12:15p 2:15p
2:00p – 2:45p	Monday, May 12	2:30p 4:30p
3:00p – 3:45p	Wednesday, May 14	2:30p 4:30p
4:00p – 5:50p	Wednesday, May 14	4:45p 6:45p
6:00p – 7:00p	Wednesday, May 14	7:00p 9:00p
Thursday 7:05a – 8:30a	Tuesday, May 13	7:45a 9:45a
9:00a – 9:45a	Thursday, May 15	7:45a 9:45a
10:00a – 10:45a	Thursday, May 15	10:00a 12:00p
11:00a – 11:45a	Tuesday, May 13	10:00a 12:00p
12:00p – 12:45p	Tuesday, May 13	12:15p 2:15p
1:00p – 1:45p	Thursday, May 15	12:15p 2:15p
2:00p – 2:45p	Tuesday, May 13	2:30p 4:30p
3:00p – 3:45p	Thursday, May 15	2:30p 4:30p
4:00p – 5:50p	Thursday, May 15	4:45p 6:45p
6:00p – 7:00p	Thursday, May 15	7:00p 9:00p
Friday 6:30a – 9:45a	Friday, May 16	7:45a 9:45a
10:00a - 11:45a	Friday, May 16	10:00a 12:00p
12:00p – 2:15p	Friday, May 16	12:15p 2:15
2:30p - 3:30p	Friday, May 16	2:30p 4:30p
4:00p – 5:50p	Friday, May 9	4:45p 6:45p
6:00p – 7:00p	Friday, May 9	7:00p 9:00p
ALL classes that start at 7:00a	Friday, May 16	7:45a - 9:45a
ALL classes that meet on Saturday or Sunday	last scheduled class meeting	

News Briefs

Comedy Club's last showing

The JJC Comedy Club will be hosting their Finals Show with improve, stand-up and sketch comedy performances from club members.

The event will take place on May 9 at 7 p.m. in the Black Box Theater, room K-1001. For additional information, contact Marc Kaufman at mkaufman@jjc.edu.

Foster proposes break on cost of textbooks at St. Francis

With the cost of going to college becoming increasingly burdensome on students and their families, Congressman Bill Foster (D-Ill) introduced legislation aimed at making textbooks more available and accessible.

Foster's proposal, H.R. 4455, the Learning Opportunities With Creation of Open Source Textbooks (LOW COST) Act, was unveiled at a public discussion on April 22 at the University of St. Francis.

If implemented, the LOW COST ACT will provide students free online access to open source college-level textbooks, and allocate federal funds towards developing improved and freely sourced science textbooks.

Each year, students pay $1,207-$1,270 on average for college books and supplies according to government estimates.

"By making high quality educational materials freely accessible to the general public, students would save money on textbooks, making higher education more affordable and accessible," said Foster in an official release.

The discussion and proposal are part of Foster's Project Growth initiative, which works to stimulate the economy by focusing on education, transportation, manufacturing, and securing the middle class.

Foster, who is running for re-election in November, is a frequent guest speaker and participant at JJC hosted events, most recently, during the campus's Walk for Freedom march on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The discussion was attended by JJC president, Dr. Debra Daniels, and DR. Arvid C. Johnson, president, University of St. Francis.

Memoriam for John Houbolt

JJC alum and NASA scientist during the Apollo moon landings, John C. Houbolt, passed away at the age of 95 on Tuesday, April 15, due to complication from Parkinson's disease.

JJC has had its fair share of famous alum: John Williams, former WGN radio D.J., and current hot at WCCO (AM) in Minneapolis, Minn., former member of the United States House of Representatives, George Sangmeister, and three current players in the NFL, Ron Ninkovich, Jeris Pendleton, and current Chicago Bear, Kelvin Hayden.

But Houbolt's contributions to NASA's space program, specifically his work in the design and planning the 1969 moon landing module, give him an esteemed and unique place in the college's history.

Known for his work in developing the Lunar Orbit Rendezvous (LOR) method for moon landing, Houbolt was both innovative and revolutionary in his contributions to aeronautical science.

The LOR method entailed detaching a separate lunar module the main craft as it orbited the moon. After making the moon landing, the module would blast off from the moon, and then rendezvous and re attach itself to the main craft for the return trip to earth.

Though criticized and considered risky at the time, Houbolt advocated strongly for LOR, famously writing to NASA Associate Administrator Dr. Robert Seamans urging for both the adoption of LOR, and for greater expediency on the part of NASA, rhetorically asking, "Do we want to go to the moon or not?"

After graduating from JJC in 1938, Houbolt received his bachelor's and master's degrees degree in Civil Engineering and the University of Illinois, Champaign, then went to receive his doctorate from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Zurich in 1957.

After the first moon landing's success, Houbolt returned to Joliet a hero and was paraded down the streets by the city's residents. Soon after, Airport Road was renamed in his honor.

Depicted in a mural at Joliet Union Station, Houbolt is also honored and celebrated with an exhibit detailing his accomplishments at the Joliet Historical Museum.

Have a nose for news? Write for the Blazer! Send your stories to jjc.blazermail.edu

Earth from page 1

and professor at the Technical Department.

The student group, Garbage to Recycle (GTR), made a splash by unveiling and promoting their mission to reduce the amount of recyclable items that end up in landfill containers.

Gathered from the campus's comingle and trash containers, the group collects misplaced recyclables and collects them in a large specially built retainer, located outdoors near the cafeteria.

"It's amazing how many (recyclables) actually end up in trash versus the recycler when they're right next to each other," said Steven Mark of GTR.

The group is working to partner PepsiCo and their Dream Machine initiative, which individuals and their school for recycling into special Dream Machine kiosks.

Other groups such as Helpers of Mother Earth, (HOME), used the forum to recruit members to their all-volunteer conservation group who engage in a simple, yet fundamentally important mission: picking up litter.

Peter Sodlacok of Student Government quizzes student Chris Bookhout during the Earth Day edition of Wheel of Trivia.

But there's nothing lightweight about the scale of litter HOME has dealt with.

Group organizer, Virgil Kemp, detailed the group's efforts at targeting areas in Joliet where huge amounts of dumped trash have turned certain areas into outdoor homeless shelters.

One, located near Washington Street and Miller Avenue, had been occupied homeless for years, who utilized debris from construction sites or building renovations.

The location, shamefully close to Joliet's downtown area, was "A block south of the police station, two blocks south of city hall," Kemp stressed, "Could you believe it?"

Efforts by HOME have cleared most of the litter in the area away, but it was not easy:

"It took us pretty close to a year to get everything," said Kemp, "and the thing is, underneath one layer is another layer, and then another layer under that."

"A lot of people don't know it's that bad because they're not out. They're in their car, in their air conditioning, and they just don't realize how bad it is."

But Kemp holds no ill-will about the situation, or people that litter, I like what I do, it's my contribution to society," he said.

"I don't have any judgments against people; I don't really even care that much why it gets there."

For Kemp, it's more important to volunteer and participate than it is to squabble over who's responsible for the trash, to use the groups activism as a bully pulpit.

Made up of entirely volunteers, Kemp said that, "We don't have any political views, we don't take donations, we don't have membership fees we don't get grants or anything like that."

Even a complementary tee-shirt stretches their budget. But despite this, HOME has performed over 250 cleanups in Joliet over the past five years.

"And our idea is if everybody spent two hours in the spring and two hours in the fall, there would be no litter," said Kemp plainly.

Joliet's Department of Public Utilities brought a large scale model that illustrated the problems that storm runoff does to the areas rivers.

"We're trying to educate the public to reduce the amount of pollution that goes into our drainage system," said David Ortiz of Joliet's Public Utilities.

"We are accelerating the amount of runoff, and a lot of it is because of what we do with our lawns with watering with fertilizers and other treatments that eventually make their way into the drain system."

Partnering with the EPA, the city is working to promote education about the area's water ways, and work towards minimizing our ecological footprint.

"We're just promoting education. Many people don't know that our storm drainage is part of our ecosystem."

"We recommend that people avoid washing our cars on paved surface so that the runoff soaks into the ground before it runs off into the street drainage."

The city was also promoting a new program wherein residents are eligible to receive a free rain collection barrel, which when utilized, promote water conservation.

Perhaps the most proactive organization present was Citizens Against Ruining the Environment, (CARE), a group that's taken legal measures to ensure public safety from illegal pollution, specifically with regulations on coal power plant pollutants, namely coal ash, a highly toxic byproduct of coal burning.

For years leftover coal ash, which contains harmful chemicals like lead, arsenic, manganese and cyanide, was thrown into man made reservoirs made by two Joliet area coal plants, risking contamination of the area's water tablet and wells.

With new proposed laws on coal ash by the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IEPA), CARE plans to attend a public hearing in order to voice their concern, specifically about potential loopholes that coal companies may exploit.

What spurred CARE into being was in 1995 when the New Avenue Texaco Plant was closing their facilities, with no plans of removing the harmful pollutants the company left behind, hoping to "Just walk away," according to Randy Juras, a representative from CARE.

The company said "it's not in our business plan. So the CARE group decided they were going to press for remediation," to force the company to clean up the site, said Juras.

Eventually the group got the site to be declared a hazardous waste site, "and it has since them been remediated."

Juras stressed the power that citizens have through voting holds the potential for positive changes in the environment, particularly among younger voters.

While attending the first public meeting on fracking in Springfield, Juras was surprised at the number of younger adults who turned out.

"I'd say 60 to 70 percent of the people that were there were college students and they were sincere and it wasn't like there weren't anything to do," said Juras, rather they wanted their voices heard, and were adamant about protecting the environment.

"It stands to reason, that in places like North Carolina, where they have a huge problem with coal ash, they don't want young people to vote."

Aware that younger people may have little concern over the environment; Juras described his son, who was such an example. Now 32 years old and a father, "He thinks about this now," Juras said with a chuckle.

"And that's what's going to happen; that's the natural evolution. If we are to make any changes long-term, we have to catch your (young people) imagination," and work to help them see things differently.

"You can take two approaches: you can depress yourself about it, or you can say, "Screw it," I'm going to do something about it."

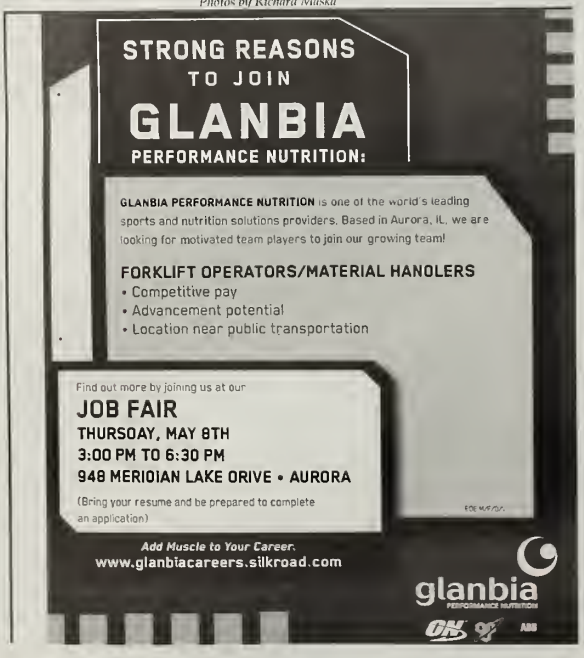
"Sustainability is about you, it's about your kids and it's about your future," said Rafac, who was busy encouraging students to stop and tour the displays.

With the help of students and local groups like HOME and CARE, Rafac has been organizing the Earth Day event on campus for over five years.

Central to her message is to emphasize the impact that individual and personal contributions have on the environment, especially among young people.

"And I don't care how you want to package it, or what political group you attach to it, it's still about you."

Recyclables collected by student club, Garbage to Recycling, demonstrates the school's commitment to enviornmentallsm.
Photos by Richard Maska



Convention

Anime returns to Rosemont

BY BRANDY ANDERSEN
Staff Writer

ACEN is back again this year! What is ACEN you ask? ACEN stands for Anime Central, the largest anime and manga convention in the Midwest area.

The event will be held in Rosemont, some thirty minutes away south of downtown Chicago from May 16-18.

For those unfamiliar with the art form, anime and manga are animated movies, shorts and literature that center on Japanese popular culture.

While some might just call it cartoons, serious anime and manga far exceed the quality and sophistication seen on American television.

If you are familiar with Dragon Ball Z or Pokémon then you've seen anime and, at least, are familiar with its style.

So what is ACEN's mission? To unite all fans in one big community to celebrate the anime art form, and showcase upcoming productions and releases.

There are plenty of events and tutorial's they have to offer, as well as a market place to buy fan made products of your favorite anime or manga.

In addition to the conference's activities, there are special guests that come to the convention to graciously offer their time and meet their fans to show their appreciation.

Well known international and American voice actors and actresses attend each year, such as Bryn Apprill, who you may recognize from the live theater version of Sweeny Todd as Johanna.

In addition, she lends her vocal talents to several FUNimation Entertainment features including Attack on Titan and Fairy Tail.

Often, fans get the opportunity to meet-and-greet their favorite anime voice actors, and many show appreciation to their fans by signing autographs and taking pictures.

Surprisingly, even with so many choices, there's more that ACEN has to offer! The band Wake Up Girls!, and the Final Fantasy soundtrack musicians are scheduled to give live performances, and live DJs will host a dance rave on Friday and Saturday night.

The raves are named Synergy and the Soap Bubble and both are routinely very loud and super fun!

What more could you ask for in one convention? If artist using chalks to create far-out and creative illustrations come to mind, then ACEN has that covered too!

Performance artist, Eric Marusack, who appears at conventions like these across the United States, has been creating giant chalk murals, often on the floor in the vendor's room or the market place.

It's an event one must attend to fully appreciate, and I encourage you to check it out yourself and see what you think! Visit their website at www.acen.org. Sign up there to buy a weekend badge or just show up and get in line for a one day badge.

Brandy and Brittney Andersen as Stocking and Panty from "Panty and Stocking with Gerderbelt." *Photo by Jonathan Gilmare*

Voice actress Bryn Apprill and Christa from "Attack on Titan," one of many characters she plays
Photos curtesy of crunchyroll.com and acen.org. Editing by Brittney Andersen

Brandy Andersen and Matthew Wagner reenacting the famous couple, Harley Quinn and Joker from Batman.
Photo by Brittney Andersen

Auto from page 1

lunch break," said the winner of the event, Tom Hahn.

"The electrical stuff is what everyone has difficulty with," explained Hahn.

"Those were the things that I excelled at with my prior experience at previous competitions and classes I've taken at the JJC auto program."

Hahn scored a perfect 50 out of 50 points in the electrical test, a score that was unmatched in the competition.

"The biggest surprise was the air conditioning section, which was almost not existent last year, and didn't think it would be (there) this year."

"So it was a bit difficult when there was a large air conditioning section," said Hahn.

Hahn is planning to continue studying automotive engineering at Southern Illinois University after finishing at JJC with an Associate in Applied Sciences degree.

Hahn hopes to work with alternative fuels more in depth as he continues his education and career.

"I'm really interested in hydrogen fuel cells because I think that is the future cars and transportation," said Hahn.

JJC has won the Illinois Skills USA hands on competition for the last six years in a row.

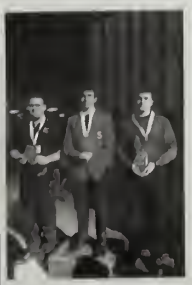
JJC in winner circle

In general, victories have been piling up for JJC programs, whether its the Culinary Department or the Blazer student newspaper.

Last year one student went to nationals and placed seventh in the nation.

In state competitions, the team has been consistently excellent, winning eight of the last nine competitions.

"The one year we didn't win, we got second and third," said Coleman.



First place winner, Tom Hahn, (center), second place winner, John Palkovitz, (right), both JJC students, honored at the Illinois Skills USA Competition.

Photo curtesy of jjc.edu

My Elmhurst Experience

Eric Lutz
[illegible] editor [illegible] newspaper [illegible] Elmhurst. I've covered [illegible] stories, [illegible] writers, [illegible] reporter and [illegible] advertising. It's great [illegible] for the future.

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Julie Provenza
I fell in love with Elmhurst the first day I visited. I was nervous about transferring but everyone's so friendly that it was an easy [illegible]

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Semester closes out with style

Top: The comedy troupe Mission Improv got laughs from the crowd when it performed on the Center Bridge on day two of JJC's Spring Fling.

Right: "The Human I-pod," John Rush, using all the tools he needs to replicate any song requested by students: his guitar and his voice.

Below: Students stop to admire some of the creative art work displayed on Earth Day. The art pieces were entirely made from recyclable materials.

Nothing pleases a crowd of college students like an offering of free food!

Photos by Lindsey Cantrell

Lefty fireballer Josh Jimenez delivers a pitch during his complete-game shutout win over Triton College on April 26. Jimenez, who leads the team in wins, strikeouts and ERA, will be counted on when the Wolves' begin their playoff run.

Upcoming movies for 2014

Neighbors (May 9)

Whoda' thunk it? Actually looking forward to a movie starring Zac Efron is, by default, amazing and certainly deserves attention.

Efron plays the de-facto leader of a raucous frat house, drawing the ire of straight-laced family man Seth Rogen, who becomes determined to exact revenge on the rambunctious college students.

I worry the film will be compromised in order to make it as raunchy as possible, but lately, Rogen can do no wrong, so this is certainly one to look out for.

X-Men: Days of Future Past (May 23)

So what do a $200 million dollar budget, and ambitious director, and a nearly psychotic fan-base get you in Hollywood? Well a new X-Men installment of course!

This is the *seventh* edition in the franchise, and the film reunites the whole gang for this go-round: Professor X (Patrick Stewart) and Magneto (Ian McKellen) with their younger selves (James McAvoy as X and Michael Fassbender as Magneto). Even Hugh Jackman's, and Bryan Singer, director of the first two X-Men epics, return as well.

For a franchise that's competing with the *Rocky* sequels for redundancy, one has to wonder how long this can, or should, keep going.

Godzilla (May 16)

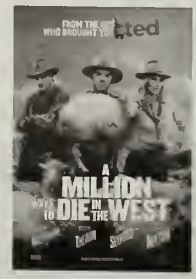
Though I am not the biggest fan of action flicks, I am looking forward to this. As with all Godzilla movies, it boils down to the movie's cheese factor. With model milroad looking movie sets and terrible voice dubbing, Godzilla movies, by nature, are notoriously corny and flimsy. But some less so than others.

Take the 1954 original, *Godzilla*, for example, which was a serious attempt at filmmaking, and warned of the dangers of nuclear power and testing, (nuclear in a general sense, not the giant mutant part of it). But the Godzilla flicks of the 1970s, on the other hand, gradually became more and more, well, cheesy.

But this latest incarnation, starring Bryan Cranston of *Breaking Bad* fame, seems to have a dark and serious tone about it, and attempts to dramatize the terror and emotional trauma that people would actually have if a giant lizard stomping through New York City.

As far as upcoming action flicks, this is the movie I would see over *X-Men* or *Spiderman*.

A Million Ways to Die in the West (May 30)



When entertainers attempt to spread their wings into unfamiliar mediums, such as an actor choosing to direct a film or a musician making a go at acting, one can't help but feel skeptical about their prospects.

Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane is certainly a welcome exception to this rule with the success of *Ted*, and now *A Million Ways to Die in the West*, a live action feature that stars MacFarlane himself, and not just the voice.

The previews look hilarious: a slew of elaborate deaths bizarre and reactionary surround MacFarlane, who acts as the sole voice of sanity in an otherwise outrageously wild west town.

"The American west is a terrible place and time," says MacFarlane in the film, "Everything that isn't you, wants to kill you."

Of course this killing will have to include MacFarlane's character, who is wholly unsuited to be the hero we expect in cowboy movies. He'll have to train up, learn to use a gun, and win the heart of the town's best looking girl- and the wife of the man he needs to kill.

Love it. I can't wait.

All photos curtesy of imbd.com

Transcendence fails to deliver on originality

By Patrick O'Carroll

Staff Writer

Transcendence seemed like Wally Pfister's great opportunity to transcend the bridge from cinematography to directing; but unfortunately falls a bit short. Starring Johnny Depp, Paul Bettany, Morgan Freeman and Rebecca Hall, Pfister tries to be original and creative but unsurprisingly manages to take from other films and repackages it with an autonomous super computer story.

The film gross tracking website Boxofficemojo.com reports only a total of $51 million earned worldwide out of a $100 million budget as of April 29. While I'm not surprised, I am a little bit dismayed.

The film focuses on the story of Dr. Will Caster, (Johnny Depp), who comes up with an evolutional idea to create a sentient computer capable of going farther than the human brain ever could.

During a scientific conference he is gunned down, injured enough to ensure a mortal wound, and leaving him with little time left.

So his wife Evelyn (Rebecca Hall) and friend Max (Paul Bettany), respectively upload a 'copy' of his mind into their computer system.

As they are astounded by what they've done it slowly turns to fear for whether or not it really is Dr. Caster in there.

Watching the previews the film looked reputable and while watching, it that seemed like a strong film grounded in its plot, not an image.

I mean, finally we get Depp as an actor and not a puppet of Tim Burton's ridiculously depressing films. They even threw Morgan Freeman in there because of his ability to narrate anything including "a phonebook" as he puts it, he is becoming somewhat of an icon among younger viewers.

Depp does a fantastic job in going from this sort of nerdy type with care for all around him to a purely logical being that operates only to better the world around him no matter what the cost.

And again, it's refreshing to see Depp in a role where he isn't painted up with ridiculous outfits and makeup done to please kids going through awkward phases in middle school.

However one thing I noticed was that his performance was extremely similar to that of Douglas Rain's voicing of the HAL 9000 computer from *2001: A Space Odyssey*, evoking the cold emotionless logic and unwavering in its mission to do the right thing but not using emotion to distinguish the rights and wrongs of its actions.

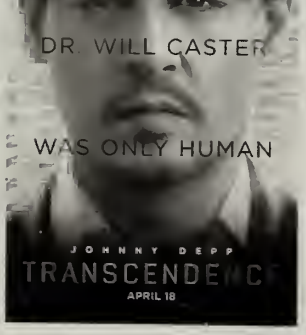
As for other performances, while they were strong enough to not be a hindrance to the film, it is certainly lackluster, and shows nothing really groundbreaking or noticeable that I could take away from.

Another film that came to mind while watching this was the new adaptation of *The Day the Earth Stood Still* with Keanu Reeves.

As seen from the previews there is a sort of gray mist that manifests itself throughout the latter part of the film.

Without revealing too much, the atmosphere in Transcendence was too close to the mist in *The Day the Earth Stood Still*.

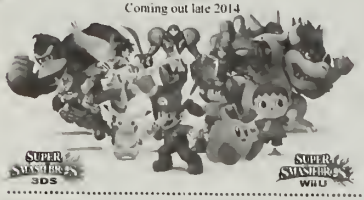
A lot of this film is taken from something else and for that I give it only two out of five stars. You won't be missing out on much.



All photos curtesy of imbd.com

New games for summer

Super Smash Bros
Coming out late 2014



Final Fantasy XV
Release date to be announced

Kingdom Hearts III
Release date to be announced

All information and photos courtesy of ign.com

Head and shoulders above the rest: Rito's Restaurant delivers the goods

By Tim Bunce
Staff Writer

To celebrate Cinco de Mayo, I thought my final piece this semester would feature a little taste of Mexican cuisine.

There are many Mexican restaurants I have visited; some are better than others; some are more authentic than others.

The list is a long one: There are LaMex, Senior Tequilas, and chain restaurants like Frisco's and Pepe's. I've had them all, plus some in between.

However, none of them are as good as Rito's.

Rito's, located at 3450 Montgomery Rd., Aurora, is far and away the best Mexican restaurant I've been to. From the service to the food, Rito's is definitely notches the top mark.

There is a decent size appetizer menu with the usual line up of favorites, but there are a couple unique items too.

Their "Mexican potato skins" substitute the basic bacon and cheese with a healthy stuffing of refried beans, layered with Chihuahua cheese and topped with salsa, sour cream and guacamole.

Another rarity is their sincronizada, a flour tortilla stuffed with Chihuahua cheese, ham and mayo.

Feel the need to be healthy? They have a taco salad, a shrimp salad, chef salad and a grilled chicken salad for healthier options.

Specially catered, Rico's guacamole is made on site while you wait.

The menu itself is stuffed with the different chicken pollos, steak Carne Asada and other various combinations as well.

These combos offer an array of regional specialties from their namesake: the Acapulco, Cancun, Maya and Azteca styles. And of course, there is Rito's combination too.

And what menu would be complete without a variety of fajitas as well. There are also the traditional dishes from tacos and burritos to enchiladas and flautas to chimichangas and tamales.

Let's face the facts though. I'm not superman. I could not try everything! I was fortunate enough though to enjoy some steak tacos and Carne Asada. I also had an appetizer of fresh guacamole, salsa and empanadas.

All I can really say about the Carne Asada is that it practically melted in my mouth. There is no other way to explain the tenderness and juiciness of it. Delicious.

If I were sentenced to the chair, firing squad, guillotine, or just knew my death was impending and could request a last meal, it would be steak tacos. Rito's steak tacos.

The salsa comes in both red and green. The green has some decent flavor, while the red leaves your pallet with a nice a hint of fire dancing.

The guacamole is super fresh. And by super fresh, I mean the guy comes to your table with a cart filled with avocados, onion, tomato, cilantro, salt and pepper and limes.

The guacamole is specially catered to your preferences on the spot, and frankly, if this isn't fresh, I don't know what is.

One fun oddity is their flaming margarita. After the first couple sips, the bartender pours a shot of 151proof rum from a sifter. The drink is swished around, set fire to, and then dumped in the margarita. It is pretty cool to watch, but best done at night without the burden of natural light.

Rito himself is a very friendly and welcoming restaurant owner. The owner for seven years now, he plans on opening a new location in Buffalo Grove this May.

He's an owner that takes pride in his business, from the food and drinks to the service. He makes everything from scratch and people come in for the known margaritas.

"It is great to work for yourself and my pleasure is to please the customers," Rito said.

The regulars are easy to spot; they know what they want and get it quickly with a laugh. In my case, after being there only once, I felt already feeling like a regular.

Rico's Flaming Margarita has great flavor and light show to go with it.
Photos by Tim Bunce

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Saint Xavier UNIVERSITY

Deep Cuts

Buckingham Nicks highlight pre-Mac magic

BY JOEL ROZA

Staff writer

Fleetwood Mac has a varied history with gobs of lineup changes, feuds, turmoil and tales of legendary excess. But no lineup of the "Mac" is more well-known and critically acclaimed as the lineup featuring vocalist Stevie Nicks, guitarist/singer Lindsey Buckingham, drummer Mick Fleetwood, bassist John McVie, and keyboardist/singer Christine McVie.

That ultimate lineup would be put together in the opening days of 1975, but before the Mac would hit on the lineup that would give them their greatest success.

The duo they acquired to make it all possible would first put out a gem of a record, *Buckingham Nicks*, that has since been lost to the ages, known only to devotees of the Mac, and record collectors alike.

That album would be the self-titled effort by Buckingham Nicks, featuring the still-yet-to-be discovered multi-talents of Stevie Nicks and her then-boyfriend Lindsey Buckingham.

Added to the equation as well as drummer Gary Hodges and bassist Tom Monerief, along with rhythm guitarist Waddy Wachtel, who would later go on to feature as Stevie's longtime solo guitarist.

Released in 1973, *Buckingham Nicks* was loved by critics, but largely ignored commercially.

They were simply victims of the oversaturation of rock music at the time. Regardless, it remains a gem that slipped under the radar for 40 years.

The album's opening cut, "Crying In The Night" is a proper introduction to Stevie Nicks, a voice that would soon become synonymous with labels like "The Queen of Rock."

It's a simple acoustic number, but it's an effective track in showcasing what the album is all about.

My favorite track is the album's closer, "Frozen Love." No song previews better what was to come later with Fleetwood Mac. The harmony between Nicks and Buckingham is spellbinding. I personally can't think of another duo that can do what they do so seamlessly and effortlessly.

Involved with each other since the late 60s, Buckingham and Nicks had a lot of time to gel musically, but that chemistry – that magic – is something you don't necessarily grow over time.

It's just there. They, and we, are lucky they found it.

In "Frozen Love," we see the full display of their powers – harmony, Buckingham's incredible guitar work and soloing, the emotion, the feel, and the songwriting. The song's solo section would later be the piece of music that nabbed Lindsey and Stevie their gig with Fleetwood Mac.

The rest of the album is littered with gold like the Nicks-penned "Long Distance Winner" and "Races Are Run."

Buckingham's southern-tinged "Lola (My Love)" is a track that showed another side of Buckingham's depth and struck a natural chord with fans in the south, particularly in Alabama. For a California duo, that was quite the stretch out.

The Nicks' composition "Crystal" would later be re-recorded on the duo's debut with Fleetwood Mac just two years later, along with tracks that were originally written for the next Buckingham Nicks' album that would never be – "Monday Morning," and the monster hit, "Rhiannon."

"Don't Let Me Down Again," one of Buckingham's songs from the sole release of *Buckingham Nicks* would go on to become a staple of Fleetwood Mac's tours throughout the late 70's and early 80's.

The high-octane rockabilly tracks was a pleasant fit in Fleetwood Mac's sets and allowed the duo to keep their pre-Mac recording legacy alive.

To this day, *Buckingham Nicks* has yet to be reissued on CD or any other format since being dropped by Polydor in 1973.

With the recent reunion and tour announcement for the classic Fleetwood Mac lineup, the fervor for a proper reissue of the album is back in full force.

In a December 2012 interview with CBS, Buckingham strongly hinted at an upcoming release:

"Stevie and I have been hanging out a little bit lately, and we've been talking about that. I think that's something that would happen this year as well."

(ED. NOTE: It didn't)."

Hardly surprising given aging rockers' propensity to both glorify and distance themselves from their previous work.

Many hands regard reunion tours as an obligation, but frame its possibility in ambiguous tones that preserves their right to "bail out" from any such commitment.

"Oddly enough, I hate to even say it, I think the 40th anniversary of that is next year. Jeez! Is that possible? So we've been talking about it. Of course, we've been talking about it off and on for a long time, but Stevie seems really into the idea. So yes, I would say yes."

In a July 2013 Rolling Stone interview, Nicks said: "I went into Lindsey's house two weeks ago and spent four days there. We recorded a very old Buckingham Nicks song that we loved and couldn't figure out why it didn't go on the album. It got brushed under the carpet somehow."

Nicks continued, "So, we should put the album back out, and if we can make that happen then Buckingham Nicks should go out on the road next year."

With Fleetwood Mac prepping for a world tour due to launch in just a couple of months, it appears we may have to do without Buckingham Nicks for a little while longer.

While the album isn't readily available for cheap purchase, it is available in its entirety on YouTube.

Buckingham Nicks track listing and info:

1. Crying In The Night (Nicks)
2. Stephanie (Buckingham)
3. Without A Leg To Stand On (Buckingham)
4. Crystal (Nicks)
5. Long Distance Winner (Nicks)
6. Don't Let Me Down Again (Buckingham)
7. Django (Lewis)
8. Races Are Run (Nicks)
9. Lola (My Love) (Buckingham)
10. Frozen Love (Nicks, Buckingham)

Released: September 1973

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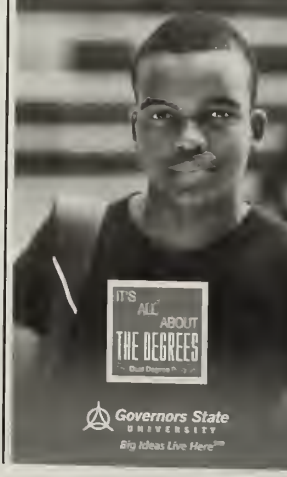

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JJC Outdoor Outlook

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With the help of Mike Gorman of Angelo's Bait Shop and reader contributions, we strive to give you the most complete breakdown of the area's outdoor trends.

We advocate catch and release and sustainable hunting and fishing that promotes a healthy ecosystem for generations to come.

Mazonia and the strip mine lakes: The bass bite has been slow so far, and lakes will need the water temperature to rise about five degrees before the action picks up. Anglers have had success catching crappie using minnows on a plain hook or jig. Targeting brush and timber piles in shallow waters adjacent to, or near, deeper water has yielded the best results.

Braidwood: The largemouth have already spawned, according to Mike Gorman, and good numbers have been caught by bouncing a worm-tipped jig on open water rock-piles in about six to eight feet.

Heidecke: Along with Mazonia, the crappie bite has been prominent, with some fish reaching over 15 inches in length. Additional reports show the walleye bite picking up considerably.

LaSalle: Reports of huge blue catfish and good stripers continue to fill message boards. Anglers should not expect this run of success to keep up as the water warms up, and the fish retreat to deeper waters.

Local Ponds: While the harsh winter has hit many small retention ponds and other lakes hard with reports of fish-kills, many have finally begun yielding largemouth. The Rock Run Rookery, in particular, has been heating up with aggressive bass being caught on lipless crankbaits, Rapala X-Raps, and by drifting live bait rigs.

Because it's still early in the season, weed cover is low and many largemouth are still dormant; the key is to throw large, loud and gaudy lures that cover a lot of water such as rattletraps and spinners in hopes of eliciting reaction strikes.

Kankakee River: Walleye continue to bite on crankbaits, and white, orange and chartreuse colored jigs tipped with a minnow. Gorman said he's received his first reports of smallmouth bass being caught as well, usually by anglers targeting walleye. Many bass have been caught suspended in the water column as algae continues to grow on the river bottom.

Des Plains River: Pike fishing has suffered so far this year due to weather instability, but many have still been caught in backwater areas between Riverside and Lockport. South of Joliet, however, both largemouth and smallmouth have been active already; a positive sign for a much-maligned section of the river.

Turkey Hunting: Illinois turkey populations are very strong according to Gorman. Several hefty gobblers were nabbed in late April at Ten Mile Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area in southern Illinois.

Selfie of a recent bass caught at the Rock Run Rookery.
Photo by Richard Maska

Commentary

On the mark with player safety

Athletic department placing high priority on health and well being of student athletes

By Joel Roza
Sports Editor

This past week, all 76 players on the Northwestern University football team cast their historic votes as players, former and current, push for the first-ever players union for college athletes.

Many view it as a sign of things to come for student-athletes who have long felt that their sacrifices, both physical and financial, have far outweighed the benefit of a scholarship or financial aid.

It's no secret that member colleges of the NCAA have made billions of dollars on the talents and drawing powers of student-athletes who never see a (legal) dime for their efforts.

At Joliet Junior College, a Division III school within the NJCAA with no ability to hand out scholarships to student-athletes, the union being voted on at Northwestern has no effect on it, nor does it on the NJCAA. But it's an interesting topic to look into.

What protections are student-athletes provided in the instance of a catastrophic injury?

Who's covering who in the junior college circuit, where student-athletes routinely use the NJCAA as a springboard to the NCAA and above?

The main case being made by former Northwestern QB Kain Colter, via his testimony before the National Labor Relations Board last month, is that there is "no way around" the fact that football is a "job."

While the NCAA regulates the time student-athletes can spend on official athletic activities to only 20 hours per week, Colter testified under oath that he routinely spent 50-60 hours per week on football.

While the NJCAA outlines guidelines for in-season and off-season practices, scrimmages, and athletic activities, there is no hourly limit to the work a student-athlete can put in.

While that would be a 'smoking gun' kind of loophole for student-athletes, it's not exactly a major conundrum for the athletic staff at JJC.

The school's athletic information director, Stephanie Kneip, says that JJC's student-athletes don't necessarily require that hourly limit because their time in practices are limited enough as it is.

"If (the NCAA's) limit is 20 hours, (our athletes) probably spend somewhere around 12 hours a week in practice," Kneip said

LOWERING THE RISK

Another protection a possible union in the NCAA would provide is the ability for student-athletes to streamline their access to a hardship waiver in the case of a major injury.

Players in the NCAA who attend schools on athletic scholarships lose a year of eligibility if a hardship waiver is not procured.

While JJC does not provide athletic scholarships, the student-athletes here are still at risk each and every time they take the field or the court.

At the end of last season, budding women's basketball star Le'Roiya Campbell suffered a season-ending Lisfranc (mid-foot) injury.

On her Facebook fan page, operated by her family, Campbell's injury was blamed on the fact that opposing players would step on her foot to prevent her from beating them down the floor.

In the event of such injuries, JJC has policies in place that protect both entities – school and player – from any sort of negligence.

In a letter sent to all prospective student-athletes, as well their parents or guardians (to those still covered by their parents' insurance), the college requires all student-athletes "to show proof of insurance which meets the following criteria before they will be eligible to practice or play at Joliet Junior College:

- The policy must cover athletic related injuries.
- The policy must provide a minimum coverage of $10,000.
- The policy must cover the athlete for the time he/she is participating in JJC athletics (Many athletes participate in one or more sports during the entire academic year)."

The notice goes on to outline that:

"The college will provide secondary insurance for athletic-related acute injuries, not including overuse injuries, pre-existing injuries, injuries occurred outside of athletics, or illness."

"This insurance will cover athletic related medical expenses that are left after the student-athlete's primary insurance has been tulled and met the $10,000 limit per injury."

The lack of coverage for 'overuse' injuries was a perplexing part of that rhetoric, so I sought out JJC's head athletic trainer, Nate Seville for clarification on what the college considered to be 'overuse' and how those injuries were treated.

"Overuse injuries are more common in sports than acute injuries, they are subtle and usually occur over time, making them challenging to diagnose and treat," Seville said

"We will treat these injuries, but JJC's insurance (secondary insurance) will not cover them. Any doctor's visits or physical therapy will be cover by the athlete's insurance only."

JJC does a first-class job in creating a safe environment for all of their student-athletes.

ATI contracts out personnel to be on-site for all athletic events, and their presence is felt with every bump, bruise and major injury that occurs.

While the NJCAA has differentiated many of their guidelines between recommendations and requirements, the coaches and medical staff at JJC, in conjunction with ATI, are firm in their belief that the health of the student-athlete comes first, above all else.

JJC uses this high-quality ATI medical facilities to treat athletes.
Photo by Joel Roza

Commentary

JJC should return to the gridiron

Football discontinued at JJC in the fall of 2011 due to significant budgetary concerns

By Elias Albert
Staff Writer

Are you ready for some football? I know I am.

In the collegiate world, many elements come together to help create what we know as the college atmosphere. This can range from the laidback feeling of lounging around campus, and it can also be the sense of fulfillment one has when participating or attending student activities, sports and organizations.

And while education is unquestionably the top priority for college students, few other things have more influence and resonate higher with student's lives than sports. And when it comes to sports, college football reigns supreme over all, creating a vibe that unites both the college and the community fan base.

But unfortunately, this vibe is incomplete without a JJC football program.

We used to have a National Championship winning team, but a November 2011 board vote discontinued the team with the consensus that the program cost more than it was worth.

The reason behind this is completely understandable.

The average annual cost of the football was placed at $476,000, which after three years of inflation, would be even more costly. One should also note that this event also occurred at the tail end of an economic recession and was a direct result of imperative budget cuts.

When the Blazer reported on the program cut back in November of 2011, Director of External Relations, Kelly Rohder said the rising costs of running the program contributed to the demise.

"What was helping to increase those costs was the traveling ... with so few schools left in the state, we kept traveling further and further."

Not only does this bring up the cost of travel, but since there are fewer teams, this also means less competition which can both lead to less interest.

That being said, I believe JJC should have its own football program. I feel this way because for one, it'd give underprivileged students more of a reason to attend college. It opens up an opportunity for some who may otherwise not want to continue school.

The average complete college football roster ranges between 80 and 90 players. Along with these players there are about 15 coaches and staff members. This not only opens up student opportunities but potential job opportunities for people with football backgrounds.

JJC's Board of Trustees has long been proposing a multi-purpose facility that would be used for events like business conventions and for JJC graduation ceremonies. By adding a football team to the JJC list of activities, the team could potentially use this facility as a home field. It would make the construction of this facility seem more logical.

Outside of the interest of students and school, the community would be influenced by a football program because few things build a sense of connection quite like the way the way the football does.

Participation in sports gives students, especially those in less-fortunate circumstances, greater incentive to attend college and receive a decent education when they otherwise would not.

Add in the slight chance and advancing to the pros only drives the interest for them even higher. It's a long shot, but we have had students make it to the NFL: Rob Ninkovich; Jeris Pendleton; and current Chicago Bear Kelvin Hayden.

With the Chicago Bears up north and three major college teams in our state, there is no doubt that football has a presence, and this love of football takes no exception when it comes to our community.

Clearly football is relevant here, why would JJC football be a bad idea?

I know that the community would love and support a JJC football program once again. So, this time around, to guarantee stable funding, the college should consider more advertising options.

By opening up more possibilities for sponsorships and grants from local companies big and small, there's no telling how much the football program could succeed.

Considering that the cost of funding lead to its ultimate demise, now there are possible solutions to that problem, particularly if the team does well.

As far as the teams need to be a competitive contender, it should be easy to find decent talent. With two Chicago Catholic League teams as well as numerous public school powerhouses, talent is definitely available in the area.

With all of this together, there is still the genuine love for football. I am a firm football fan. There is nothing that comes close to the way I feel about the sport. At any level of it, I am entertained.

And I do not feel alone in my admiration of the game; it's hard to find anyone who do not share this sentiment on some level.

Reinstating the football program, in my opinion, would increase the college's relevance greatly; because while overall enrollment is still strong, it has plateaued over the past couple years, falling short of the Board's expectations.

Football on campus may very well be the shot in the arm that drives enrollment higher and into comfortable financial margins.

And I'm not advocating that the program should reach for the level of success that Notre Dame, Texas, or even Northern Illinois, but a strong program would undoubtedly benefit the college as a whole.

Granted, the program should not be reinstated at the expense of other campus clubs, sports or activities.

I'm in favor of expanding and adding programs across the board, for women's sports, student clubs, the arts and academic organizations; all of which could be feasible by utilizing the revenue generated from a successful football program.

Despite the obstacles going against my case, I still stand by my belief that JJC should have a football program.

The depth of high-school talent in the area should ensure a competitive and exciting program.

JJC once had a dominant football program, but it was cut due to high costs. Now, many are advocating its reinstatement.

Photos from Blazer archive.

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Lady Wolves' silver lining: tough season teaches grit

By Elias Albert
Staff Writer

One legendary phrase commonly used in the world of sports describes that it's not necessarily about how you start, but rather how you finish. This applies to the Lady Wolves' game against Harper College on April 21, and really, the season as a whole.

Mother Nature once again made her influential presence felt on that Monday afternoon as she brought some rain into the Joliet area. However it remained dry enough to allow the game to begin and play out for quite a bit.

After falling behind 1-0 after the first inning, the Wolves gained some momentum after a three-run second inning. Despite this early jump ahead on the scoreboard, the Lady Wolves would once again find themselves behind on the scoreboard after they were outscored 8-2 over the next two innings.

After four and a half innings, the Lady Wolves trailed 9-5 as heavy rain made its way through the area. With lightning strikes visible in the distance and the rumble of thunder lingering in the background, the game was more than likely nearing its end. A rain delay was brought on for about 15 minutes before they returned at-bat.

It was then that they'd take control and never look back.

As if providence was at play, the Wolves rallied for an amazing five-run tally in the bottom of the fifth, giving the Wolves a one run advantage.

Before the inning could even end, the lightning alarm sounded, and the game was called with the Wolves victorious by a score of 10-9.

"The weather conditions were a little bit sloppy and we were already down by a big deficit, but we hung in there and managed to pick up a win," said Coach Emily Marino.

"It was a good game, I wish we could have finished it out before the weather got too bad, but we'll take a win."

Bad weather is definitely nothing new for the Lady Wolves. After the apocalyptic winter of 2014, they had to deal with multiple games cancelations and reschedulings, due to frigid temperatures.

However, Marino's team has faced these and many other challenges all season long and has never backed down.

The current 9-30 record that the team possesses is not a true indicator of the effort that the Lady Wolves have put in.

After a 1-15 start, the Lady Wolves have gone 8-15 ever since, which is a strong improvement against such tough opposition, and mounting difficulties due to a a rash of injuries to the pitching staff.

On Friday, May 2, the Lady Wolves entered Region IV tournament play.

According to Marino, the Lady Wolves would have to participate in a play-in game more than likely against Harper College before entering the tournament.

One should expect Marino to have her team ready, "I think if we can play together and avoid mistakes that we can come away with a win and just go on from there."

When asked to put the season into one word, Marino responded with "challenging," which certainly goes without saying.

"It's been a challenging year, but I think the girls have improved and battled and we've managed to stick together," added Marino.

Marino had high praise for two players in particular: Lincoln-Way North alumna, and current freshman shortstop, Emma Traina, along with Joliet West alumna, and current sophomore catcher, Stephanie Stanton.

"These are two very tough players who have made a difference all year long."

If there is anything to pull away from this season and the way it's played out so far, it's that Marino and her Lady Wolves have shown resiliency despite the many challenges and adversity that they have faced.

If they manage to put together a strong formula by building off of recent success, they may just be able to make an impact in the post-season.

Which, in the end, can be all that matters for this tough Wolves team.

JJC player taking a mighty cut: The Wolves struggled on offense this year,
Photos by Michael DiNavo curtesy of jjc.edu

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A mouthful of turf proves well worth it as Freshman INF Emma Traina dives in for a stolen base. Traina has been a standout performer for the Wolves this season, leading the team in hitting (.458), stolen bases (52) and runs scored (48).

JJC baseball gaining steam as playoffs arrive

Nick Fleischauer fields a pickoff attempt in a game against Triton College on April 26.

Photos by Lindsey Cantrell

Infielder Ben Kirchler, lays down a sucessful sacrifice bunt.

BY JOEL ROZA

Sports Editor

The primary goal this season for head baseball coach Wayne King was to right the ship after last season's disappointing 24-25 finish.

King's program isn't one for losing seasons, having only experienced a handful of them in his previous 27 seasons.

For a team with 17 returning sophomores and an impressive, but unpredictable freshmen infusion, the writing was on the wall for a bounce back season.

Ranked number one in the preseason, the Wolves would have to open the season with their backs against the wall.

After a 3-8 start that saw the team travelling to St. Louis and Nashville to open the season after a "spring" training forced exclusively indoors thanks to Winter Apocalypse 2014.

The Wolves returned home where they would win their first 11 home bouts and run off a 17-2 streak over the next 19 games to propel the team back into the Top 10 poll.

The turnaround this season could not have been possible without the team's electric offense, which has consistently turned out great performances throughout the season.

BY THE NUMBERS

JJC has been on fire at the plate all season, producing numbers that rank at, or near, the very top in the league. Here's how the team and players finished:

-Ranked 1st in hits (578)
-Ranked 1st in triples (33)
-Ranked 2nd in total bases (780)
-Ranked 3rd in doubles (103)
-Ranked 3rd in runs (408)
-Ranked 5th in walks (180)
-Ranked 7th in team batting average (359)
-Ranked 7th in batters hit by pitch (51)
-Ranked 9th in slugging percentage (.484)
-Ranked 12th in on base percentage (.434)

Individual offense

-Catcher T.J. Condon (.440) and INF Ben Kirchler (.432) rank 17th and 21st, respectively, in batting average in the league.

-INF Nick Fleischauer (39), OF Matt Filkins (34), Kirchler (33) and Condon (33) rank 25th, 35th, 40th, and 49th in the league in runs scored.

-Kirchler (60), Condon (59), and Fleischauer (51) rank 14th, 15th, and 31st in the league in hits.

-Condon ranks in the top 10 in the league in slugging, wielding the big stick at a .709 clip, good for 7th overall.

Wolves pollute the top 50 in the league in RBIs, with the freshman catching duo of Colten Trager (44) and Condon (40) finishing 11th and 15th, while Filkins (30) and Fleischauer (31) sit 43rd and 39th, respectively.

On the mound

The team's pitching staff comes armed with a rotation filled with workhorses who are both inning eaters and winners.

-RHP Kevin Ruff (7-2, 2.67 ERA) is 11th in innings pitched with 64.0.

-RHP Josh Wojnarowski (4-3, 4.67 ERA) is 13th in innings pitched with 61.2.

-LHP Josh Jimenez (8-1, 1.96 ERA) is 15th in innings pitched with 59.2.

-RHP Thomas Goodyear (6-1, 3.53 ERA) is 26th in innings pitched with 51.0.

-RHP Matt DeGraw (5-3, 4.30 ERA) is 17th in innings pitched with 58.2.

Other notable pitching stats:

-Ruff is tied for second in the league in complete games (6).

-Jimenez is 8th in the league in strikeouts (60) and is tied for 1st in the league in wins (8).

-Goodyear is 6th in the league in walks (33).

-T.J. Condon actually comes in as tied for 12th in the league in saves (2).

By riding his five horses into battle and refusing to be quick with the hook, King has given his starters a chance to stretch themselves out while avoiding using a troublesome and limited bullpen.

The Wolves finished the season 35-17, ranked 9th in the National Top 10 poll.

Region IV Sectionals are due to begin on Saturday, May 10 where JJC will likely host for a chance to advance to Schaumburg and the Region IV Tournament, which takes place Friday, May 16 thru Sunday, May 18.

It's been a successful turnaround for Wayne King's legendary program, but no comeback is complete without postseason glory. With this offense, and that rotation, there's no limit to what these boys can do if they remain focused and stay hungry.

The numbers don't lie.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Josh Jimenez (Baseball)

Jimenez has been on a tear this season, posting a 7-1 record with a 2.05 ERA and 55 strikeouts. Jimenez struck out 7 in a 3-1 victory over Harper College on 4/21 and struck out 6 in a 7-0 victory over Triton College on 4/26

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Emma Traina (Softball)

Traina finished the season with a team-high .458 batting average, with 65 hits, 48 runs, and 42 stolen bases, which was the second most in NJCAA Division III. She also collected 20 RBIs on the season.

INSIDE

Womens soccer returns to JJC

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 VOLUME 87 ISSUE 6

9/11 remembered with ceremony

Photo by Jami Sunemeier

Joliet Police Department's Honor Geurd merches neer bell tower et the front of the Main Campus.

BY CAITLYN SEVERSON

Staff writer

On the solemn morning of Sept. 11—a day that America will remember forever—the college paid tribute to those lost in the tragedy 13 years ago. The ceremony was held at the bell tower at the front of the college Main Campus at 8:45 a.m.

The sobering fact is that the ceremony began at the exact time that plane number one hit that first tower all those years ago.

The singing of "America the Beautiful" by Kyle Minett, former JJC student, kicked off the ceremony, and invited all those in attendance to pause and reflect on the gravity of what the day meant.

After this, JJC Police Chief Pete Comanda stated that 403 firefighters were killed on that day; a tolling of the bells in their honor took place shortly after his remarks.

This was followed by a bugle soloist playing "Taps" and bagpipers playing "Amazing Grace."

The number of people killed and people affected by 9/11 were mentioned. All told, there were 2,977 civilians from 115 different countries who passed away on that day.

It was also revealed that a member of JJC's police force is currently deplnyed in Afghanistan, and the crowd was asked to keep him in their prayers and thoughts.

A moment of silence was held to end the ceremony and those in attendance were invited to go

See 9/11, page 4

Farmers market showcases locals

BY OLIVIA BERGAGNA

Staff writer

It's Thursday afternoon and most people are looking forward to watching a good baseball game or for their favorite TV show to be on. But this summer and fall, the people in the Joliet area have something entirely different to look forward to.

Every Thursday from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. JJC holds their own farmer's market in the parking lot of the greenhouse off of Houbolt Road. Everyone is welcome to come and see the wide variety uf organic goods and products that are sold there.

The JJC Farmer's Market is what's called a "Producer's only" market, which means that vendors wishing to sell their products have to produce it themselves. So all of the fruits and vegetables sold here are completely organic; it's completely healthy!

Many local farmers - Arnold's Farm and Fitz's Superior Farm to name just two, sell their crops and livestock here to help bring these fresh goods to the community. They range from vegetables such as kale, squash, and spinach to pork and beef.

These aren't the only things sold here though. Other vendors bring many other things to the table — so to speak. Local bakeries have set up stands to sell anything from brownies and freshly baked bread to gluten free products.

Stumper Cheese comes to sell their dairy products, Simply Salsa brings their homemade salsa, and there is even a soap vendor called Sweetchick Soapery.

For the last year Dorothy Rosier has been JJC's Farmers Marketing Manager as well as a student here. Having just finished her associates' degree in horticulture to go along with her bachelor's degree in business, Rosier brings her knowledge and experience to the position.

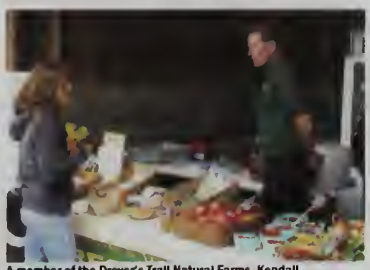
During market days, she works to organize who the vendors will be and where they will be places in the lot.

"It's not a job to me," Rosier said, "Working with these vendors is a huge passion of mine. I love them."

When asked why this market was important, she responded by citing a recent campaign called Illinois Where Fresh Is, a program formed to raise people's awareness of locally grown produce, and stresses the fact that money spent locally would stay in the local economy rather than be sent elsewhere.

One statistic found for this

See Farm, page 4



A member of the Drover's Trail Natural Farms, Kendall County, assisting a customer at last week's farmers market.

Photo by Richard Maska

New Veterans Center gives JJC vets new 'home away from home'

BY JOEL ROZA

Staff Writer

For decades now, airports around the country and around the world have given veterans a little taste of home with their USO centers, giving active duty, reserve and veterans alike the kind of gift that keeps on giving and the kind of place that veterans could call their own.

Some might call it 'a calling:' to give back to those who give so much for our safety and well-being.

Our security and our freedom.

JJC has long prided itself for its relationship with its veteran students, and that bond has only strengthened with the opening of a new place for the school's vets to call their own.

Debuted this fall, JJC has opened the new Veterans Resource Center on the first floor of C-Building, giving realization to the 'Master Plan' update that JJC launched last year. The Center resides in the same area as the former Nursing and Allied Health Department.

Construction began on the center in December 2013 and was completed this past summer.

The plan also included the construction of the newly-opened Tutoring and Learning Center on the second floor of C-Building.

"We are looking forward to having. for the first time, a dedicated space on campus for our veterans," said Director of Financial Aid David Seward back in November of 2013.

See Veterans, page 7

EDITORIAL

Fight for a fair and open internet

Keep corporations from dominating online content; speak up before net neutrality becomes a memory

In January, the Supreme Court ruled against the FCC's right to enforce net neutrality allowing internet service providers to discriminate against certain websites. The internet was invented to allow open access and open communication across a globally-connected network, but internet-service providers like Comcast, AT&T, Time Warner Cable, and Verizon want to change that.

Back in 2010, the FCC created a law known as the "Open Internet Order" which made it illegal for internet service providers to block websites and to discriminate against certain websites. Which means that Comcast can make one website load slowly, whereas another website loads faster; and this is what internet companies like Comcast are trying to do.

For example, a website like Facebook would be forced to pay companies like Comcast a bunch of money in order for its website to load at an acceptable speed; doing this creates two lanes of internet, a fast lane and a slow lane.

Websites that could afford it would be able to pay the internet-service providers a lot of money to maintain a constant website-loading speed, while a small business or a regular person with a blog would not be able to afford to pay the amount for premium-internet loading speeds thus making their website run slowly.

Just because companies like Google and Facebook can afford to pay more to have their websites load fast, it doesn't mean that they want to.

In fact, some of the most-well known websites like Google, Yahoo, and Facebook are in an active campaign to turn over the court's decision against the FCC's right to enforce net neutrality.

We saw similar campaigns when the government tried giving the power to control the internet to internet-service providers and Hollywood companies with their attempt to pass the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), and the Protect IP Act (PIPA); the attempt to pass these two bills led to the internet blackout protest led by Wikipedia.

Today, these same major websites are encouraging their users to speak out against the court's ruling.

The internet was created to allow everyday people like you and me to share and exchange ideas, and to communicate freely. If we destroy net neutrality, we destroy the internet because most people will lose the ability to run a website or blog on the internet leaving the ability to communicate freely without restriction behind with it.

It is imperative that people speak up, and join the campaign for net neutrality. If companies like Comcast get their way, they will be able to control what we see, and what we say on the internet.

The internet has changed the world and created new possibilities by being open and free, but once again corporate greed has destroyed our right to free speech.

Not only will the corporate world have control of our government due to laws like "Citizens United" which allowed corporations to spend unlimited money on lobbying, but now has allowed them to take control of the internet, blocking any site that they do not like.

At the end of the day, losing net neutrality doesn't just mean losing the internet, but losing our right to free speech.

Question of the issue:
What events are you looking forward to most this year?

Gina Sanfilippo

"Probably the play "Normal Heart."

Juan Guzman

"I thought it was pretty cool when they brought in the alligator ... It's really good to have the speakers come in like that. If they bring in a variety of things here, then people will get involved. "

Nick Gabriele

"No not exactly, just working on my stuff and classes, trying to get done (with) industrial welding."

Jeff Capperino

"I'm looking forward to going to sporting events, like some of the soccer games."

BLAZER STAFF

Richard Maska
Co-Editor

Alex Forgue
Co-Editor

Brittney Andersen
Production Manager

Joel Raza
Sports Editor

Jami Shawmeker
Photographer

Elias Albert
Copy Editor

Sarah Lake
Advertising Manager

Staff Writers:
Brandy Andersen, Donald Balger, Tim Bunce, Jordan Baker, Olivia Bergogna, Caitlyn Severson

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:

Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431

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The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authencity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

Contact information:

Blazer
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431

Phone number:
815-280-2313

Jim Nesci's reptiles entertain at JJC

By Don Bolger

Staff Writer

Jim Nesci and his cast of Cold Blooded Creatures have been entertaining and educating in the Chicago area since 1977. When he and his cohorts returned to the JJC Campus on Wednesday, Sept. 3, they drew a crowd in the parking lot the moment Nesci opened the side door of his van and a 250 pound, nine-foot long, alligator named Bubba exited the vehicle; yes, an alligator departed the van on command.

Bubba then made his way, when asked, into a giant blue canvas bag that Nesci tied at the animal's tail and three men lifted then lifted him to a cart. The entourage headed to the stage at Center Bridge with a captivated crowd following.

Those that witnessed the show would learn that the alligator and the other creatures are considered by Nesci to be "individual" members of his family that reside in his basement in Homer Glen.

"Individuals? Absolutely," Nesci explained at the start of the program, "people say these animals have tiny brains but, you'll see, they have the ability to learn." He would prove that point over and again throughout the hour-long demonstration that began with a giant African Spurred Tortoise named "Tank".

On cue, the 70-pound tortoise walked from the stage toward the audience. That's when Nesci spotted two-year old Paul Petree who was brought to the show by his grandmother, Pat Padden. Nesci asked the toddler "Do you want to ride him?" Paul, whose mom is JJC English Instructor Elizabeth Petree, was helped atop Tank and the two made their way down the aisle until the youngster had his fill. "Paul is here to see the alligators," his grandmother said. "It's all he's talked about since we left the house."

Tank continued to make his way through the audience until he encountered Kathryn McQuen, a Criminal Justice student from New Lenox, who sat down and proceeded to get to know the massive herbivore.

The performance continued with a 6 foot long, 25 pound Monitor Lizard named "Godzilla" whose darting tongue startled many, including Mokena business student Hannah Melvin, who was the first of several to volunteer to hold the reptile.

Nesci then teased the audience with the first alligator to perform, the appropriately named "Lucky", who was rescued from the DuPage County water treatment plant. Nesci told how many a reptile ends up in the water system- flushed- when the creature becomes a burden they weren't expecting.

He then asked, "Who would like to hold Lucky?" An eager Devin Polaczek, a nursing student from Lockport, was the first to handle the nearly four-foot long gator. Nesci spotted Greg Adams, a Culinary Arts Student, and inquired (tongue-in-cheek) "You're not here to cook him, are you?" Adams, who was wearing a chef's coat, replied "No, I just want to see if I can hold him, really!"

The animated resident of Joliet took a deep breath when he was handed Lucky and exclaimed, "I did it. I'm holding him! I can't breathe but I got him!" As Adams handed the gator back to Nesci he offered, "I have to tell you, fried gator is delicious!"

Nesci jokingly covered the alligator's "ears" and said, SHHH!" to Adams as he returned Lucky to his travel crate.

"I need several volunteers," Nesci then said, and with their help slowly brought "Blondie", an Albino Burmese Python that weighs 80 pounds and measures 13 feet long, to the stage. It took nine spectators standing shoulder-to-shoulder to hold the enormous snake for all to see.

But many, like young Paul, waited patiently to see the alligator that was resting in the giant canvas bag on the stage. Even passersby, who stopped when they were captivated by what was obviously an alligator in a bag, were about to experience the main attraction- Bubba.

The 68-year old Nesci untied the tail of the bag and announced, "Okay, Bubba, back up!" The alligator silenced the crowd when he obliged and slowly walked backward out of the sack. "As I told you earlier," he explained, "these individuals are intelligent; Bubba and all the creatures you saw today, are members of my family and they enjoy entertaining and educating you."

On command, Bubba made his way off the stage as Nesci detailed how he and his alligator have made appearances on local and national TV programs; met and worked with the likes of Zoologist Jim Fowler, and were invited by Australian wildlife expert, the late Steve "The Crocodile Hunter" Irwin, to Los Angeles to work at the premiere of Irwin's movie "Croc Hunter, Collision Course." It was a relationship, Nesci said, "I'll treasure forever. He was a great man."

Nesci, having learned earlier that Paul Petree was there for the gators, made the youngster's day when he asked, "Are you ready to ride Bubba?" The two-year was helped upon the gator's back and was paraded around the stage.

It was time for Bubba to head back to his temporary dwelling- the canvas bag- for the ride back to van, where he once again thrilled those watching as he did exactly what he was told.

The performers slowly made their way to the parking lot where the gator departed the sack and, when ordered, climbed back in the vehicle and he waited to head home.

Nesci then explained what, after 37 years, drives him is "Showing another side of animals that no one gets a chance to see; and looking at the crowd, seeing the enthusiasm, seeing the disbelief, seeing people look at me and saying 'no way' and 'that's impossible' and that fires me up to do more and more. That, and I have a lot of months to feed!"

His tone shifted to serious when he said, "I've always had a great passion for animals. But I also have a unique relationship with these animals and I know how to work with them and I feel it's important to prove what I've known for a long time- that there is a complexity to these animals."

A complexity that many more witnessed and, thanks to Jim Nesci and his Cold Blooded Creatures, now understand.

After looking forward to seeing alligators all day, youngster Paul Petree gets up and personal with Bubba.

Photos by Don Bolger

Criminal Justice student Kathryn McQuen with Tank, a giant African Spurred Tortoise.

Market from page 1

campaign is that if every family spent just $10 more a week locally, by the end of the year it would amount to $2 billion dollars back into Illinois economy.

Not only does the market help to keep the money local, but it helps support the community, bringing fresh fruits, vegetables, and other products to an area where there aren't many.

But organizing the market initially cost much more than $10. Much, much more in fact.

The project took shape in 2013 when Donna Theimer from the Horticulture department and Kelly Larson, the Grant Writer for JJC, when both worked together to write a grant for $98,000 in order to run the Farmer's Market.

After receiving this grant, Theimer stepped in to take the position of Market Manager and the Joliet Junior College farmer's market began.

9/11 from page 1

to the cafeteria for a continental breakfast and an opportunity to view a video narrated by former Mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani called "In Memoriam: New York City, 9/11/01." This was made possible by the sponsorship of Campus Police, OSA, and Environmental health.

In this video, the events of that day are shown through the camera lenses of people who were actually encountering the horror first-hand.

Details such as exactly when the planes struck the towers, how many people were killed and how many were injured are given.

"September 11 was a day that changed many of our lives forever," said Comanda during his speech.

"But while some of us wondered what they could do to make a difference, there were others who stepped forward to do their part to protect this nation."

The ceremony lasted about fifteen minutes, whereas the video lasted around an hour and a half.

The ceremony included the Joliet police and fire departments as well as Campus Police and the Will County Sheriff's Police Rifle Squad. The Joliet Police Department Honor Guard was front and center during the ceremony bearing flags.

The American flag was held high throughout the ceremony. The flag on the college flagpole was lowered to half-staff.

"You have to make sure people remember this," Comanda said. "It will happen again if we don't."

Police Reports

Forgery

JJC Police arrested Aaron Singleton, Richton Park, and Anthony Gandy, Jr., Harvey, for allegedly forging a check belonging to another JJC student. According to police, both were charged with deceptive practice and were trespassed from all JJC properties and Centennial Commons on July 28. They were scheduled to appear at the Will County Courthouse on Aug. 8.

In-State Warrant

JJC Police arrested Roger L. Starks, Plainfield, on Aug. 11 for having an In-State Warrant out of DuPage County and failing to appear. Starks posted bond and was released.

Speeding and driving without insurance

Anthony Alba, Joliet, was issued two citations and charged with speeding and driving without insurance on Aug. 13. According to police, Alba began yelling obscenities to the responding officer. Alba was due at the Will County Courthouse on Sept. 10.

Domestic battery

Victoria Coy, Schaumburg, was arrested and charged with one count of domestic battery and two counts of criminal damage to property after police say that on Aug. 21 Coy hit her boyfriend and threw his personal items around his Centennial Commons apartment. Coy was booked and transported to the Will County Detention Facility.

Traffic violations

Ana Garcia-Osorio, Joliet, was arrested on Aug. 25 after police said Garcia-Osorio was stopped for disobeying a traffic control device and was found to be operating an uninsured vehicle without a valid drivers' license. Garcia-Osorio was issued three citations and is due to appear at the Will County Courthouse on Oct. 9.

Trespassing

JJC police issued a notice of trespass for Centennial Commons to Mykal Cox, Kokomo, Ind., on Aug. 25 after police say Cox was found in a Centennial Commons apartment he did not have a lease for and refused to answer the door.

Verbal altercation in classroom

Tadas Butvydas, Joliet, was issued a notice of trespass to all JJC properties after police said Butvydas was verbally abusive to his instructor after being asked to leave the class on Aug. 25. According to police, Butvydas became argumentative and was yelling at the responding officer.

Attempted gasoline theft

Trey Hildebrand, Naperville, and Joaquin Contreras, St. Anne, were arrested on Aug. 31 after police say Hildebrand and Gronau were found stealing gasoline from the JJC fuel pumps, as well as having possession of burglary tools and equipment. Debra Kilma, Chicago, and Adam Gronau, Plainfield, were subsequently arrested for the same incident said police. All four were issued notices of trespass for all JJC properties and transported to the Will County Adult Detention Facility.

Driving violations

JJC Police arrested and issued citations to Macario Jaramillo, Plainfield, on Sept. 3 for driving with expired registration and for having both his insurance and license suspended, police said. Jaramillo's vehicle was towed. He was released on bond. He is due at the Will County Courthouse on Oct. 9.

News Briefs

JJC projects are subject af public presentations

JJC's proposed multipurpose facility and North Campus extensions were the topic of two community presentations hosted by JJC on Sept. 10 and 15.

According to JJC's news release, the intention was to inform the public about the two ongoing issues, as well as gather input from residents.

The Multipurpose building was the focus of the first meeting.

The building will include facilities for athletics, physical education, classrooms as well as for conferences and business training.

The proposed building site is one the south side of Main Campus and has been in the works since the college's 2008 master plan.

The second meeting, which took place on Sept. 15, focused on an extension of the Romeoville Campus to accommodate the nearly 4,000 students currently attending classes there.

According to the JJC newsroom, the proposed projects will be funded by a $45 million dollar bond issue, and a $4 dollar hike in capital assessment fees included in students tuition.

These measures were approved by the board of trustees in August of 2013.

Job Fair

JJC will be hosting a part-time and seasonal job fair on Sept. 19 at 10 a.m. in the C-concourse of the Main Campus.

Prospective employees should come prepared with resumes and appropriate dress.

Recruiting agencies such as 1st Choice Temporary Service, Interstate Warehousing and Nexus will be screening for warehouse related jobs.

Retail opportunities will include Sears, JC Penny, and Walgreens, and H and R Block is looking for employees for tax services.

For additional information or assistance with a resume, contact career services at 815-280-2756, or by visiting the Campus Center room A-1175.

STEM fair

Opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields will be featured during a transfer fair on Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Main Campus.

Representatives from the college's technical department and participating universities will be present with exhibits showcasing the various STEM fields.

For more information, contact Technical Specialist Luann DiMonte at 815-280-2725 or via email at ldimonte@jjc.edu, or Transfer Specialist Cheryl Turrise at 815-280-2923 or via email at cturrise@jjc.edu.

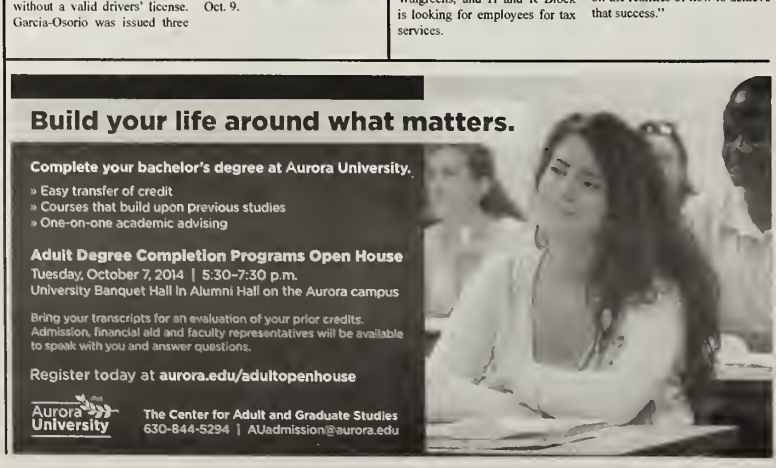
Broadway producer comes to JJC

Tony Award winning Broadway producer Douglas L. Meyer will speak to students and community members about his illustrious career tonight at 7 p.m. in the Main Campus's Black Box Theater.

Meyer received his awards after producing "Hairspray" in 2003 and "The Producers" in 2001, and has also worked with Tom Hanks in the 2013 play "Lucky Guy." His other works include "Leap of Faith," "Legally Blonde," and "Swing!"

Meyer is also a managing director of investments at Copper Meyer Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors in Deerfield, Ill.

In a recent article by the JJC Newsroom, Nicki Blowers, the technical supervisor of the JJC Theater, said "This event has the potential to inspire students to reach their professional goals, but also give them some insights on the realities of how to achieve that success."



Commentary

A look back at the summer that was

A recap of the biggest news stories from an unforgettable season

BY RICHARD MASKA

Co-Editor

Summer's rays have shone for the last time, and fall and the new school year has begun in earnest. But before we prepare for waning temperatures and shorter days, let's reflect on the biggest stories that headlined the summer.

Major News

As major news events go, this summer was quite dim.

Stateside, we saw racial tensions boil over again, a refugee crisis involving children, and internationally, downed commercial airplanes, Islamic militant groups coming to power, renewed tensions between Israel and Palestine, and conflict erupting in Eastern Europe.

It was difficult finding a positive story to counterpart a chaotic and frankly violent summer, so we didn't.

Chaos in Ferguson

The tragic killing of a young unarmed African American again dominated this summer's headlines when the city of Ferguson, Mo. erupted in protests that quickly turned violent following the killing of Michael Brown.

Last summer, the death of Trevon Martin caused widespread public outcry, but while Martin's killer was an overzealous neighborhood watchman, Brown was killed by a white police officer from the Ferguson police department.

The city, which has had a long history of distrust between its mainly white police force and its predominately black population, saw peaceful protests erupt into street violence as the overzealous police department began firing teargas and rubber bullets in an effort to disperse the crowd.

The story is human tragedy for sure; at 18 years Brown was old enough to be a classmate of ours but instead was killed when he refused to walk from the middle of a road to a sidewalk.

Witnesses say Brown had his hands over his head before he was shot six times, two of which were fatal head wounds.

The details surrounding the incident have been unclear, and the police department's refusal to release the officer's name and slowness to release information infuriated Ferguson's residents.

The tragedy reflects the years of racial inequality and tension that has marred and darkened this county's history and the ideals at which it was founded on.

In a country where 400 African Americans are killed by police officers each year and are far more likely to be searched, stopped, and imprisoned, the incident underscores persistent distrust between black community members and authorities nationwide.

This incident, more than any other, demonstrates the endurance of a culture where racism and bigotry continue to darken our society.

Ukrainian incursion

International political crisis took on a retro-vibe this summer as Cold War era tensions were rekindled between Russia and the United States over conflict in the Ukrainian secession movement.

Initially, Ukraine had only a simple request: sever a few economic ties with Russia to join an economic pact with Europe in order to bring their country out of the 20th century.

So sure enough, bare-chested horseback riding Russian President Vladimir Putin acted the way any jealous ex-boyfriend would act: occupy some of your neighbor's territory with combat troops.

The overreach stunned the United States and the rest of the western world, making the prospect of world warfare not unreasonable.

The western allies responded with economic sanctions, and while they have been effective at slowing the Russian economy, we're just not sure if Putin cares or not.

Meanwhile, violence and uncertainty continues in Ukraine prolonging this east versus west showdown.

"Putin Riding a Bear:" Seen as both chauvinistic and enigmatic, Russian President Vladimir Putin was photographed shirtless riding a horse, adding his reputation as an egotistical bully. But as the crisis in the Ukraine escalated, one must wonder whether his inspiration came from such rides. The Western World will now take notice whenever Putin does anything without his shirt on.

Original Artwork by Brittney Andersen

Sports

Like any good distraction shielding us from totally lacing reality, there was optimistic sports news all summer to make up for the catastrophes in the real world and enough to give us a double dose.

Rising talent for both the Cubs and Sox

Last summer both the White Sox and the Cubs were firmly in the worst column for their dismal on-field performance.

And while their records this year are not much better, both clubs have had waves of optimism as they showcased their young talent.

Cub-dom was uproarious after the trade of Jeff Samardija and Jason Hammel to Oakland, but since, both have combined for 6-9 with an ERA in the mid-fours.

Meanwhile Addison Russell, Javier Baez and a slew of young talent wait in the wings.

Cub fans are beginning to see the light Theo Epstein and Jed Hoyer's rebuilding plan, and should not expect the same fire-sales next season.

Southside MVP candidate and Rookie of the Year lock Jose Abreu has been electrifying in his debut with the White Sox.

The Cuban born rookie brings years of international experience to his game and is so immensely talented.

So good, he may wind up the best Sox hitter since Frank Thomas.

Chris Sale has pitched well enough for hardware consideration of his own.

If Abreu and Sale win their respective awards, it will be just the sixth time in Major League history where both awards went to members of the same team.

It will also be the second time in White Sox history with La Marr Hoyt taking the Cy Young award, and Ron Kittle winning Rookie of the Year in 1983.

While both clubs are still far off from contending for a World Series, the future seems bright on both sides of town as each club continues to develop their young talent.

Here's hoping for a Sox-Cubs showdown in the World Series in the not too distant future.

Futball mania

For six weeks people gathered in places like Grant Park, bars, and houses across the country, the World's Game became our game too as World Cup fever swept across news and social media conscious.

While the United States fared only well enough to advance to the knockout round, their journey leading up was a wild and intensely enjoyable ride, with late game heroics and heartbreak taking place in two games.

Americans love a good underdog story to throw their support onto, especially when it comes to international competition, and for a brief while the World Cup gave us just that, making it the coolest sporting event of the summer.

Odds and Ends

Taking a look at the bits and pieces that made up the summer.

JJC Automotive

The JJC automotive department was represented in the national SkillsUSA Automotive Service Competition this past summer by Homer Glen native Tont Hahn, who finished second. This is the first time a JJC student has medaled in the national competition in 25 years.

Hahn was put through a ringer with 13 test stations requiring him to diagnose the problem then fix it.

The competition was held in Kansas City, Mo. and Hahn had to compete against 43 other students from across the country.

It's a testament to the quality of JJC's automotive department, a curricula that has undergone massive improvements since its renovation in August 2011.

Ice Bucket Challenge

With hundreds of participants from celebrities to ordinary people, few charitable endeavors have garnered the kind of support that the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge achieved over the summer.

According to the ALS Association, over $100 million dollars have been raised since the challenge was enacted.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease is a progressive neurological disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, causing loss of voluntary movement to stop and eventually death.

Some have branded the challenge as a farcical publicity ploy, and they're probably not wrong

But no one can doubt its popularity and effectiveness. Celebrity participation and a myriad of Youtube bloopers have made videos of this challenge go more viral than cute cats.

Have a nose for news? Write for the Blazer! Send your stories to jjc.blazermail.edu

Hottest manga and anime for summer 2014

BY BRITTNEY ANDERSEN

Production Manager

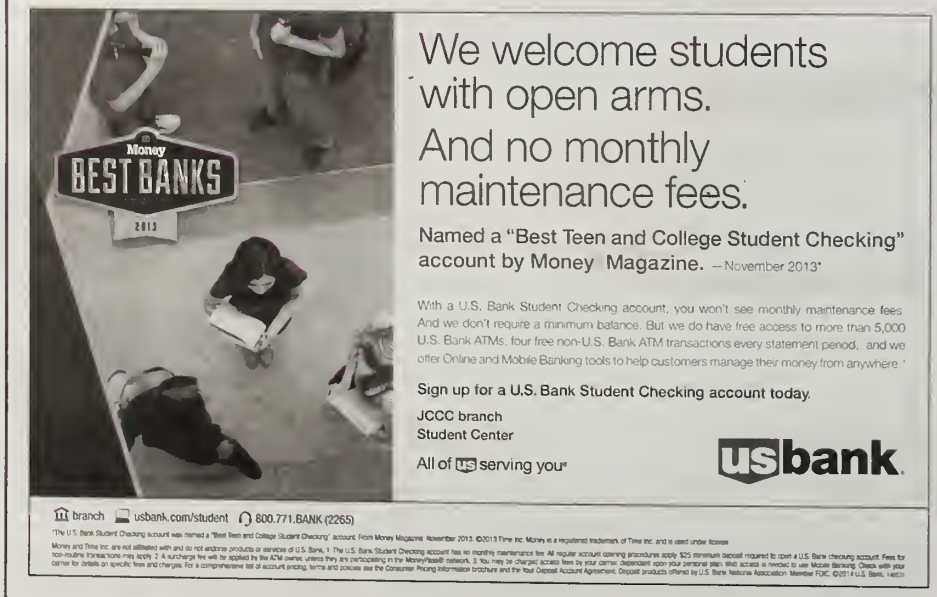
D-Frag!

Delinquent student Kenji Kazama is forced into joining his school's struggling "Game Creation Club" by its members, a quartet of crazy women with their own eccentricities that drive him crazy. As he attempts to distance himself from the club, the more he seems to run into not only his fellow club members. Meanwhile, others from his school who drive him insane to different degrees.

Sailor Moon Crystal

Middle school student named Usagi Tsukino befriends Luna, a talking cat that gives her a magical brooch enabling her to become Sailor Moon: a "pretty soldier in a sailor suit" destined to save Earth from the forces of evil. Luna and Usagi assemble a team of fellow Sailor Soldiers to find their princess and the "Legendary Silver Crystal."

All information courtesy of crunchyroll.com



JJC gettin' back to the grind

Above: Philip Spencer and Debra Miller conduct the JJC Choir es they prepere for their December carols and chocolates concert.
Below Left: Ricky Gercie, who is studying business menagement, takes time to get homework done in the new Veterans Center.
Below Right: A sure sign of the approech of fall, these pumkins are growing outside the Early Childhood Center.

Photos by Jami Shawmeker

Veteran from page 1

"This will be a place for student veterans to gather, meet each other and have access to computers and meeting spaces that are for them."

The new Veterans Resource Center is 1,700 square feet, giving JJC's veteran students a place to go for all manner of activities, including studying, socializing, and networking. The space also ineludes a conference center for meetings, as well as counseling.

Already, tha new center is paying dividends for prior service students, not just giving them a place to go and relax, hut also a place to go and earn some money while working to complete their degrees.

The resource center gave Kenn Lance, a Navy veteran in the submarine fleet, a part-time joh as a clerk as ha works towards his degree in marketing. From behind his desk, Lance said almost jokingly that, "after 30 years (in the Navy), I'm back to get my degree."

The center is spread out and open, adorned with husts of all five major hranches – the Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard – and provides a nnique, and subtle familiarity for veterans now away from their service.

"I feel like they made it just for me," said Army veteran Ricky Garcia. "It's a great benefit to have." Garcia is enrolled at JJC to help earn a degree in business management. He added that he likes to take advantage of the studying space the resource center provides.

Veteran students are granted a swarm of benefits for their service - including a free education - but their sacrifices, as varied as their individual experiences, are meant to be rewarded in a way that is consistent with how people who lay their lives on the line for the betterment of our country should be treated.

JJC averages about 300 veterans utilizing benefits per semester, so a center for their use is a paramount attraction for those looking at JJC as a place to begin or continue their educational endeavors.

For service-members, there is no higher calling than the one they serve. For an educational institution like JJC, there is no higher calling than the one they have fulfilled in giving back to those who have given so much.

BBQ showdown: Baby Back Blues vs. Wild West BBQ

BY TIM BUNCE

Staff writer

These are two restaurants in Plainfield with two different zip codes and barely two minutes away from each other.

These restaurants have different themes but both serve barbecue.

Where does the controversy lie? Well, both of these places claim to have the best barbecue in Plainfield so I decided to find out which is better.

Wild West BBQ and Baby Back Blues BBQ both assert themselves as the best in Plainfield. Is there a possibility that they are both right? Sure. Is there a possibility that they are both wrong? Sure. So that said, I thought I would be the judge.

Wild West BBQ, located at 15420 Route 59 has a Wild West theme with casual, sit-down dining and a full bar. Owner Jay Pfeilsticker has had his place for about two years after spending 30 years in the video store business.

Baby Back Blues BBQ, located at 16200 S. Lincoln Highway (Route 30) has a blues theme big on B.B. King. This place is more of a fast food/carryout joint, but there is the option to dine in. Owner Ken Faught opened his restaurant in October of 1998.

Obviously these two places have the traditional BBQ dishes. There is the chicken, pulled pork, rib tips, beef brisket and ribs.

They also both have the traditional sides such as mashed potatoes, corn, coleslaw and mac and cheese.

Wild West's pulled pork is served in heaps with sides of bread if you would like it as a sandwich.

Baby Back has its pork already in sandwich form which you can order in third pound or a half pound options.

Wild West is good, but slightly dryer than Baby Back. I have to say advantage Baby Back.

At Baby Back Blues you order rib tips by the pound. They are very tender and meaty. At 7:00 p.m. Wild West was out of them, which is simply bad form so I must give the advantage again to Baby Back Blues.

The beef brisket is similarly good in both places: both offer decent size portions, however, Wild West has a slight edge by creativity with the sauces offering a spicy mayo type barbecue.

It is a tough call here, but by the smallest of margins I need to go with Wild West.

Unfortunately, I didn't get to try the chicken at either place, so I will leave you to be the judge.

Finally we have the mother ship and standard for barbecue places: the ribs. Baby Back are tender, juicy and fall off the bone.

At Wild West they seem to have as much, if not more, bone than meat and were pretty tough too.

Though they are seasoned very well with a healthy mix of spice and flavor, it is still no contest though. Baby Back Blues wins again.

Wild West BBQ started with Pfeilsticker's friends and family convincing him to get into barbecue instead of chocolate.

"My neighbors, friends and relatives said my barbecue is so good I should open a restaurant."

He said he smokes some of his meat for as long as 14 hours.

Although he says business is doing ok, Pfeilsticker said he would like to relocate out of Plainfield because the mayor and trustees opted out of a deal that would allow video gaming in Plainfield.

Pfeilsticker said "One trustee said that gambling creates social problems."

He went on to say the citizens of Plainfield should be outraged, because instead of gambling revenue, they raise property taxes instead.

Baby Back Blues BBQ started with Faught and a partner. His partner's theory of if somebody is good at something then you should teach it.

So for good barbecue they went to Texas to learn the art of making it.

Faught smokes his pork and beef for 16 hours and chicken and ribs four to six hours.

"It's all good cooked on wood," said Garrett O'Riordan, one of Faught's employees, who explained how all their meat was cooked on hickory.

Having a sit-down meal at Wild West BBQ was a completely different vibe than a quick order and sit-down experience at Baby Back Blues.

Take the service for instance: I cannot speak for all servers at Wild West, and it is possible mine was having a bad day, but she was mediocre at best.

She did her job, but minimally and with no pride.

At Baby Back Blues they are full of excitement and enthusiasm, even from behind the counter. "We like to have fun with our customers, and we like to be proud of our customer service," said AJ Banaski, another of Faught's employees.

I went to two different barbecue joints with different styles, decors and tastes.

They are both decent and acceptable to your taste buds.

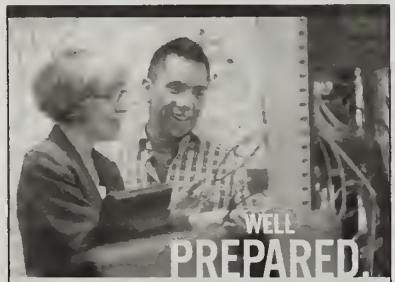
However if you want to enjoy your meal, as well as the people around you, there is one place to go.

Congratulations to Baby Back Blues BBQ. You win the battle of barbecue.

A relaxed and bluesy setting accompanies Baby Back Blues, which boasts stellar customer service.

Photos by Tim Bunce

The full bar is typical of the sit-down format at Wild West BBQ.



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Album Review

Slaine's *The King of Everything Else*

BY JORDAN BAKER

Staff writer

There are a few familiar faces in the underground hip-hop scene, East Coast specifically, that experienced listeners are sure to recognize. A good number of them are associated with the Army of the Pharaohs, either directly or through another group.

Artists like Vinnie Paz of Jedi Mind Tricks, Ill Bill of La Coka Nostra, or Celph Titled of The Demigodz to name a few.

They've all got a somewhat similar: a dark boom-bap kind of sound with topics that can range from political activism to straight-up shock value.

Slaine, who is a New York MC and member of La Coka Nostra himself, fits right in with this crowd. Slaine isn't quite as lyrical or overtly clever in his lines like much of the talent he associates himself with, but that doesn't mean he doesn't know how to entertain.

The album, The King of Everything Else, is proof. This album has a lot of things in common with other releases from the aforementioned rappers/groups, in that nearly the whole thing has a grimy, boom-bap sound to it while Slaine's gravelly voice flows impeccably through the beats.

As I mentioned before, Slaine isn't the most lyrical MC, but he certainly knows how to command a listener's attention with his words.

First off, his voice does that well enough, in fact he sounds rather similar to Vinnie Paz, both vocally and flow-wise, which is his other strong suit; Slaine knows how to ride a beat.

His flows are always so smooth in contrast to his voice, and he delivers them just as well. The track "Pissed It All Away" showcases this rather well, especially around the beginning of the second verse: "Is he dead? Is he drunk? Is he dizzy? Is he really as he says, is he really getting busy all around the world with the stizzy from the city that he reps? Yeah he's still there, get sh*tty on the steps."

Slaine also proves that he isn't a bad storyteller either with the track "Bobby Be Real," featuring Fech N9ne and Madchild.

All three MCs tell the interesting story of Bobby, a coked-out, gambling miscreant with one of the album's stand-out tracks.

However, like the majority of hip-hop albums that don't have that are lacking in the way of lyrical substance, a lot of the tracks end up being rather forgettable.

Not only that, but Slaine also isn't too great of a hook writer, which can be heard clearly on the tracks "Hip-Hop Dummy" and "The Most Dangerous Drug in the World."

Generally, it's fair to say that Slaine is a fantastic rapper but average lyricist.

But he needs to focus more on his songwriting ability and consistency if he wants to be noticed amongst his peers, who are arguably some of the best in the game.

Slaine certainly deserves to stand amongst them as a respected MC, but that might be where he will stay unless we see some progression from him, and maybe a little more individuality as well.

Courtesy of Suburban Noize

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JJC Outdoor Outlook

Will County area fishing report

For the avid angler, or the frequent hunter, giving you the latest fishing and hunting reports, trends, and tips for all the hottest spots from our neck of the woods.

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We advocate catch and release and sustainable hunting and fishing that promotes a healthy ecosystem for generations to come.

Braidwood: Extremely high water temperatures have slowed much of the fishing with the exception of catfish, which have been caught in high numbers.

Heidecke: White bass are beginning to run, chasing baitfish to the surface in large numbers and can be had by throwing topwater lures and small spinnerbaits. The lake closes to fishermen on Oct. 7 and will open up to waterfowl hunting on Oct. 18.

Area ponds: Largemouth are heating up on days with rain and overcast skies in several local retention ponds and small lakes. Cast senko-style rubber worms parallel to the shore and let the bait sink uninterrupted all the way to the bottom.

Some ponds in New Lenox have reported outrageous numbers of bluegill action, hitting primarily on live bait.

Dupage River: Anglers reporting a rise in topwater action in low light periods near deeper holes and eddy areas. Overall inconsistent weather has caused rapid fluctuations water in water levels throughout the summer, making for difficult fishing overall.

American eel caught in Tampier Lake: An American eel approximately 30 inches long and four-to-five pounds wus caught in Tampier Lake last month, making fur the most unlikely of fish-tales. The story was reported by the Cook County Forest Preserve, who examined the fish before releasing it back in to the lake.

From its birthplace in tch Saragasso Sean this eel proceeded up either the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, or the St. Lawrence Scaway into an elaborate series of tributaries and waterways before finally making its way into Tampier Lake. Were this the case, the eel would have traveled an astonishing 3,700 miles to make its way to the lake.

Lady Wolves volleyball show signs of improvement despite early losses

BY ELIAS ALBERT

Copy Editor

Women's volleyball at JJC has made its way onto the court for a new season. They'll look to build upon their 16-19 record from 2013 which included a healthy 7-5 record within N4C play.

With a new season comes new expectations. Lakisha Cameron, head coach of the Lady Wolves volleyball team, weighed in on the expectations she has for her team.

"My expectations are that the team continues to grow, work hard, and I have no doubt that they will be a threat to whomever they face. I expect us to finish better than last year's 16-19 record."

The expectations Cameron has placed on her team are reasonable, but will take some exertion from her team. The Lady Wolves have five freshmen on their roster compared to just three "solid sophomores" as Cameron called them.

So far, the team has accumulated a record of 6-9, which is eerily similar to the 16-19 record they posted just last season. Despite the striking similarity in numbers, the record includes some promising wins, including a solid 3-1 record at home.

"The team is battling well right now. I expect us to really come together within the next week or so," Cameron said.

"I have a great set of young women that are skilled and competitive. We are trying to stay focused on improving match-to-match so that we can continue to challenge our opponents."

Following a three sets to none victory over Triton College on Sept. 9, the Lady Wolves improved their conference record to 2-2. Outside hitter Mary Warren led the charge with nine kills out of her 14 total attacks.

Madeline Hipp, a right side and outside hitter for the Lady Wolves, has also put up some impressive numbers during the season thus far.

Warren is one of the team's five freshmen that Cameron feels can make for a "nice supporting cast" to the three players, including Hipp, with proven experience.

This is without a doubt an important factor that this team possesses. Chemistry is a necessary part of the success of any athletic program and if the Wolves hope to continue their improvement, they'll need to continue the trend of good teamwork.

If this trend does continue, Lady Wolves could prove to be a daunting matchup for future opponents.

"When they are all clicking, they can be really scary. They are all great athletes but they are also phenomenal people that can really be inspiring. They do a great job of supporting each other while also pushing one another to do better and be more," said Cameron.

As far as Cameron's choice of players who particularly stand out, she couldn't pick any in particular and instead said that "everyone on our team is a 'standout' because everyone is imperative to our ultimate goal of rising to the occasion every time we play."

With 20 games remaining on the Lady Wolves schedule, they will look to continue to impose their will on opponents. With a number of the remaining games against conference foes, the Lady Wolves may see the familiarity as an additional advantage.

With a winning record in conference play last season, the Lady Wolves may have some confidence to work off of as they continue their long haul.

Men's soccer off to rough start in 2014

BY JOEL ROZA

Sports Editor

Ten months after suffering a 1-0 loss to Century College in the NJCAA District C Championship game, victory has still eluded JJC men's soccer for the better part of a month.

The Wolves currently find themselves at 1-4 (1-1 N4C).

The Wolves did not get themselves off the snide until the second week of September, getting the 2014 campaign off to a 0-4 start which pales in comparison to last season's near-glory.

That slide was finally interrupted on Sept. 8, when JJC blew the doors off Milwaukee Area Technical College, 8-0.

Still led by emerging stur, sophomore F Leatile Masula and head coach Cris Trillo, the newest member of the 100-win club, the Wolves are struggling to gain their balance amidst a season of unique challenges.

The primary challenge is overcoming the loss of C Bryan Chavez, who set a team record in 2013 in assists (11), making him the school's all-time ussists leader with 16.

As Masula, last year's scoring leader, continues his search for a "Pippen to his Jordan," the Wolves have, overall, struggled to score.

Prior to their Sept. 8 victory, the Wolves as a team had been outscored 9-2.

Being unable to score with any sort of consistency hus crippled Trillo's squad and led them to this most unthinkable start

The season so far...

The season started on Aug. 22 with a home loss to Heartland Community College, 3-1, with sophomore MID Luis Perez scoring an unassisted goal late in the first-half.

The Wolves traveled to Chicago to face Kennedy-King College on Aug. 26. Despite a good defensive effort the majority of the night, the Wolves fell victim late in the second-half to three unanswered goals at the 46:00, 69:00 and 70:00 marks. JJC did manage 10 saves in the contest.

JJC hosted Prairie State College on Aug. 29, losing 2-1 after the Pioneers' Josh Horne nailed an unassisted goal at the 89:00 mark. Sophomore Kyle Halleberg had tied the game at the 67:00 mark with a goal, assisted by Luis Perez.

The loss pushed JJC's home record to 0-2, already more losses than the Wolves suffered all of last season within their friendly confines (5-1-1).

JJC's first conference game of the season came on Sept. 3 in Rockford against Rock Valley College, with the Golden Eagles scoring a key 1-0 win.

The Wolves' Sept 5 home game against Malcolm X College was cancelled due to min and will be made up on Sept. 22 at 3 p.m

The Wolves' most recent bout against Milwaukee Area Technical College featured a breakout performance for Trillo's squad, with JJC scoring four goals per half, led by Nestor Rodriguez (3), Leatile Masula (2), Kyle Halleberg (1), Armando Alvarado (1), and Angel Sanchez (1). Masula also led the team in assists, with three.

JJC's Sept. 10 conference bout with Harper College was postponed due to min and re-scheduled for Sept. 15.

What's to come

After their re-scheduled bout with Harper on the Sept. 15, the Wolves host Triton College on Sept. 19 in their third N4C match-up of the season.

They face Malcolm X College on the Sept 22 to make-up for the postponed Sept. 5 game at JJC.

With a sufficient pounding of Milwaukee Tech out of the way, there's a renewed hope that perhaps the Wolves are now off the snide and back on track.

Baseball

Wolves lay foundation for spring season this fall

BY JOEL ROZA

Sports Editor

As the summer heat gives way to cooler temps, Wayne King's vaunted baseball program will retake the field for fall baseball just months after their 39-19 campaign came to a dramatic, heartbreaking end.

The 2014 Wolves saw their record-setting season end in the Sectional Championship Series on May 17, two wins shy of advancing to the Division III World Series in Tyler, Texas.

The Wolves will carry on this fall with many pillars of that 2014 team having moved on.

Among them, top rotation arms LHP Josh Jimenez (Illinois Wesleyan University) and RHP Matt DeGraw (University of St. Francis), INFs Tyler Thorson (North Central College) and Ben Kirchler (Western Michigan University), OFs Matt Filkins (Western Illinois University) and David Rico (North Central College), and RHP Jake Kozlowski (Robert Morris University).

In all, the Wolves expect to bring on an almost entirely new pitching staff, with RHP Thomas Goodyear (6-1, 3.53 ERA in 2014) as the lone holdover.

Returning will be First-Team All-American/All-Region/All-Conference catcher T.J. Condon, who served as the catalyst for last season's offensive juggernaut.

Behind (or beside considering King wouldn't dream of a lineup with either of them riding the pine) him once again will be Colten Yrager, who finished the spring with a .364/.456/.464 line, giving JJC one of the more potent 1-2 combos in the league at the catcher position.

Coach King's plan for the fall is ride into battle with his returning cast and freshmen newcomers, trying to figure out who goes where and just how the team will attack come spring 2015.

King's plan in the fall opener against Morton College on Sept. 10 was to start only freshmen in the game, while utilizing only one sign – steal. No bunts, no squeezes, no hit and runs, no funny business of any kind. The Wolves will be replacing a lot of key contributors from last season, and getting to know their instincts and feel for the game at this early stage is part of what makes King the institution that he is.

Among the fresh faces King will be looking to this coming spring will be LHPs Troy Carlson (Joliet Central) and Charles Wright V (Lemont), RHPs Paul Biddle (Tri-County, IN), Thomas Jeffries (Providence Catholic) and Trevor Maly (Minooka Community), OF Joshua Sneed (DeKalb) and C Sean Sullivan (St. Thomas More).

Fall league baseball is, for all intents and purposes, an exhibition season. It allows new players to get their feet wet, sophomores to stay sharp, and coaches to get a live-game look at what they have; to take stock. There is no World Series, no postseason, and no competitive consequence for wins and losses for purposes in the fall, but for the individual teams, it's everything. A preview of what's to come, and a chance to prove oneself on the field.

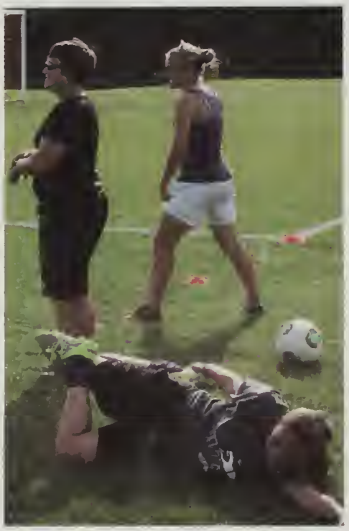
JJC fall league schedule

Wed. Sept. 10	vs. Morton College	3 p.m.
Thu. Sept. 11	at Prairie State College	3 p.m.
Tue. Sept. 16	vs. Waubonsee CC	3 p.m.
Thu. Sept. 18	vs. Oakton CC	3 p.m.
Fri. Sept. 19	at Morton College	3 p.m.
Tue. Sept. 23	vs. Prairie State College	3 p.m.
Wed. Sept. 24	at Lewis University	4 p.m.
Thu. Sept. 25	at Oakton CC	3 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 27	at Univ. of St. Francis	10 a.m.
Tue. Sept. 30	vs. S. Suburban College	3 p.m.
Wed. Oct. 1	at Kankakee CC	3 p.m.
Thu. Oct. 2	at Prairie State College	3 p.m.
Fri. Oct. 3	at Waubonsee CC	3 p.m.
Tue. Oct. 7	vs. Kankakee CC	3 p.m.
Thu. Oct. 9	at South Suburban College	3 p.m.
Fri. Oct. 10	vs. Prairie State College	3 p.m.

The Wolves started all freshmen players in their Sept. 10 scrimmage against Morton College. *Photo by Joel Roza*

Women's soccer is back intact

Inspirational leader Mauar Alroth sets the play up in a recent bout.
Photos by Jami Shatemaker



Assistant coach Kathy Kasher (left) directs a recent practice as Mauar Alorth stretches and Page Dickison looks on.

By Elias Albert
Copy Editor

With the new school year underway, su is the 2014 season fur the JJC wonen's soccer team. They make their return tu the pitch, in what can only be described as n prognam rebirth, after last season's temponiry program cut.

First-year head coach Larry Gmiber took over the team with the responsibility of bringing the program back relevance.

"I thought it was a perfect opportunity," said Graiber on the open coaching job following the departure of the former cuach Gino Di Nardo.

"Since the team was lacking a true coach, they surt of withered away and eventually the program collapsed. Then soon after, that's when I stepped in."

Of course with the complete rebuilding of an athletic program comes numerous challenges, as Graiber pointed uut.

"It took a lot of work and time. We had to regain commitment from players to participate along with recruiting new players to join the team. On top of all that, it seemed like our existence as a program was something that students and staff around JJC forgot."

Along with the challenges uf team recognition, came the obstacle of fielding a competitive team. With a young program, such as this one, expectations are not set very high since consistent success is particularly difficult.

However, Graiber feels that his team has a chance to make strides and put the program's future in the correct directiun.

"We aren't looking at this seuson looking to be the best around. We know that's just not realistic, but we do hope to build the program up a little bit.

"Our goal is to at least get to a winning season. We know that will take a lot of hard work and effort, but I feel good about our chances," Graiber said.

One thing that the Lady Wolves have going for them is defense. They have not been easy to score on. Despite an, at times, struggling offense, the Lady Wolves have remained within just a handful of goals of their opponents.

Goalkeeper Maura Alroth has been a huge playmaker for the team. Her high energy style and motivational effort definitely gives her team a boost.

On offense, Kate Bachiller has led the Wolves thus far with two goals, both of which came in the same game against Morton College. Three other players, Allyson Weier, Samantha Gewalt and Mallory Schade, have each tallied up one goal each.

With still a number of games remaining, the Lady Wolves will look to continue to improve on what they've done so far.

It is without a doubt that if the Lady Wolves can put together a winning effort, it will definitely be an all-around accomplishment considering that it has been nearly two calendar years since the program has been victorious.

"Game by game I feel that we're getting better and closer to victory. There's some chemistry beginning to bloom and some good defensive play. We just have to build off of that," said Graiber.

Male Athlete of the Issue

Salvador Lazaro
(No head shot available)
Men's Cross Country
Freshman Salvador Lazaro led the Wolves at the Harper College Invitational on Aug. 30. His 20:43 time earned him a fifth place finish among more than 50 runners in the race.

Female Athlete of the Issue

Madeline Hipp
Volleyball
Sophomore Madeline Hipp returns as a mainstay for the Lady Wolves. The hard-hitting outside hitter is currently averaging 8.9 kills per match this season.

INSIDE

Mens soccer heats up as the Wolves head into the postseason

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014 VOLUME 87 ISSUE 7

Broadway royalty at JJC

BY JEREK MARTINEZ

Staff writer

JJC can boast a number of events when it comes to theater, and with several announced for October and November, there is plenty to see this fall.

Fine arts students and enthusiasts alike were treated to such an event on Sep. 17 when Tony Award winning Broadway producer Douglas L. Meyer came to visit in the college's Black Box Theater to talk to students about his experiences as an award winning producer to several theatre productions.

"He kindly agreed to speak with our students to share what he has went through to be successful," said technical supervisor, Nicki Blowers. Blowers explains how the Meyer visit began through theatre staff connections which was followed by exchange in emails. A date was finally planned and was promoted in the building.

Blowers also gave credit to students involved in the theatre curriculum for being a participant in the event.

Meyer arrived later afternoon outside the theatre in the K building. He brought a DVD that contained files of the many theatre productions he was a part of. He also brought small suitcases that contained his two Tony Awards. During the interview phase of his presentation, students were also rewarded with posters of his theatre productions that he would later autograph for the students.

Meyer introduced himself as a producer by describing how he is "not use to being on this side of the stage" as he pointed to the audience and describing how as a producer he is mostly sitting outside the stage.

He began his presentation by talking about his beginnings into theatre. Meyer would say how his background to theatre was second to none, and that he did have a "love for the theatre."

He shared his time as a child of watching live theatre at eight years old. This then led to being part of his first theatre production with a few friends called Wild Men.

See Broadway, page 4

Douglas L. Meyer holds postor for "Leap of Faith," a 2012 production nominated for a Tony Award for best musical.

Photo by: Jerek Martinez

Business not just for bigwigs

BY RICHARD MASKA

Co-Editor

Many students have dual responsibilities in school and work to wrestle with, but few bear the responsibility that Jason McAllister does as the owner and founder of Paragon Computer Repair & Consulting.

His computer service company offers a wide range of services, from routine issues such as virus removal, software installation and upgrades to hardware and memory, to larger jobs such as operating system installations, motherboard upgrades, and custom builds suited for the user.

"Most things, nine out of ten times, we can take care of," said McAllister.

When he refers to we, one must specify that all services he offers, with only minimal aid, are performed by himself. He does so in his headquarters - the family basement transformed into an elaborate tech support center with computers and monitors crowding his work stations.

Over 400 clients have used McAllister's services, who has been operating his business for just over a year and-a-half now.

Though he excelled at his previous jobs as a computer technician at Office Depot and Tiger Direct, both carried a level of frustration due to the fact he would often have greater training and more knowledge over technical matters than his management.

And neither job brought him any closer to fulfilling his greater ambitions as an entrepreneur.

"It seemed like a logical next step for me," said McAllister, "[Tiger Direct and Office Depot] were in control of most of the decisions, so it seemed more

See Computer, page 6

Campus safety a high priority

BY RICHARD MASKA

Co-editor

With domestic violence dominating news cycles both on campus and in professional sports, JJC has taken steps to ensure the campus is better educated about the issue.

A recent Campus Safety Symposium is one such example of the proactive measures the college is taking to create a safe and positive campus atmosphere.

The Sept. 15 forum laid out a number of proactive campus measures and resources available to students suffering from domestic or sexual violence.

The first to speak was the Cynthia Vasques-Barrios, the Dean of students. A title that will soon be changed to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, because as Vasques-Barrios explains, "A lot of people look at the Dean of Students like high school. I really don't want that perception for our office."

One of the functions the office is responsible for is the student code of conduct, which Vasques-Barrios said was analogous to driving. "If you drive and you never read the rules of the road, you don't know what to expect for behavior."

Other responsibilities the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities include the Academic Honor Code, Student Complaint Procedure, Deputy Coordinator of Title 9, which includes matters such as sexual assault and dating violence. Photo I.D., life skills, student publications, health insurance, medical notification.

Vasques-Barrios is also the co-chair with JJC Police Chief Pete Comanda on Behavioral Intervention Team, a group trained to help students in crisis. This group takes in personal and second hand requests.

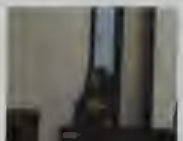
"If you know someone with issues going on in their life . and your concerned with their personal safety, this organization works to assist the student and get them help," said Vasques-Barrios.

"We do not want that environment here what we really want to do is provide an environment where you can focus on your education," said Vasques-Barrios. "Our process is an educational process, it's not a punitive process, that's one thing I want people to understand, this is where you go to get some help."

Amirrah Abou-Youssef represented the Guardian Angels, a community domestic violence advocacy group. Abou-Youssef described domestic violence as "emotional physical financial abuse that's all about power and control," and not an equal relationship.

The Guardian Angels employ seven programs to assist those who are victims of domestic violence and those exposed to it. These programs include resources such as 24-hour support for victims, which can include consoling, legal, and medical services.

See Campus, page 3



Amirrah Abou-Youssef: Abou-Youssef, liaison for the Guardian Angels, spoke about the various services available to victims of domestic violence.

Photo by Richard Maska

EDITORIAL

Commit to hiring more counselors, please

The college wants us out of here--ideally with a degree or certificare--but make no mistake, they want you in-and-out quickly, but with some measure of success.

JJC has gone to great lengths to aid students complete their degrees: career counselors and academic advisers are available to help students, and the college hosts numerous transfer sessions including an upcoming event on Nov. 5 designed to help students unsure of their major.

Much of this is part of the nationwide initiative, "Commit to Complete," a community college program designed to find and enhance ways to raise graduation rates.

It's a noble cause and endeavor, but anytime experiences with counselors are brought up by students in a group, it is often accompanied by a testimonial chorus of disapproval.

"(The counselors) claimed that I didn't have the prerequisites for the class. So for about a semester, I took a class and didn't need it," said student Brianna Herod, recently. "Instead of helping me into the right class they got me into the wrong classes."

Opinions vary on how well the college prepares students for graduation, and to he fair, some have had excellent experiences with the services JJC offers.

"I thought they would be uncaring and rush us like, "let's go, just go." But they actually care, so that makes me feel good," said Deliance Lemhe.

But often, the loudest opinions come from those whose experiences were largely negative, such as accounts of students being advised into taking classes they didn't need, vague directions on how to complete their associate's degree, and generally speaking, an atmosphere that was anything but accommodating.

"I mean, they shouldn't be holding their hand, but they should at least care a bit more so that there aren't mistakes," said another student, Ashley Prosken.

So despite JJC's best efforts, reviews are mixed as to how well career and academic services are assisting students towards graduation. Many students wind up taking far more classes than what is needed, and consequently, spending far too long at the college.

We understand that counselors are not all-knowing gurus with all the answers, but students should never leave a meeting feeling misled or more confused than when they walked in.

At the same time, the final responsibility rests with the students to ensure their path is the correct one, which requires both research and due diligence that many are simply unwilling to do for themselves.

But the problem is not with the counselors or the college's intentions in their surge to get students to graduate. Both want what's best for students and their future; the problem is simple logistics.

Currently, there are more than 15,000 students enrolled in JJC, and only nine full-fledged counselors to handle them; roughly one counselor for every 1670 students. Academic advisers are also there to assist students, but students often under-utilize their services.

Counselors have to juggle educational and transfer planning, as well as personal concerns and crisis intervention for students.

The solution, in practice, is far more complicated than it would appear, but it starts with personal responsibility on the students' part, and hiring more counselors on the college's end.

Question of the issue:
What is your opinion on the helpfulness of the school counselors?

Alex Vasquez:
t spoke with them earlier this semester, just trying to adjust some classes, but t went in she gave me a form and I kind of filled it out myself. I mean as far as counseling, she kind of hit the mark with advice. t left and there really wasn't much else I could have asked.

Deliance Lembe:
Good, so far. Better than t expected it to be. I thought they would be uncaring and rush us around like, "let's go, just go." But they actually care, so that makes me feel good.

Lizbeth Orozco-Barrera:
t met with one of the career advisers and t was supposed to major in biochemistry, but they only gave me the sheet for the associates in sciences. So that kind of was too general than what t had to take and later on they gave me the sheet. So t think they should give the specific courses first and make sure they don't take unnecessary classes first.

Ashley Prosken:
The counselors just need to take their time when they handle students and their questions because they're basically guiding them to the right educational path here. They shouldn't be holding their hand, but they should at least care a bit more so that there aren't mistakes like people taking the wrong courses that aren't getting them towards their associate's or a transferable credit.

BLAZER STAFF

Richard Maska
Co-Editor

Alex Fargue
Co-Editor

Brilney Andersen
Production Manager

Sarah Lake
Advertising Manager

Jami Shawmeker
Photographer/Photo Editor

Elias Alberi
Copy Editor

Jael Roza
Sports Editor

Staff Writers:
Brandy Andersen, Tim Bunce, Olivia Bergagna, Caitlyn Severson, Jordon Baker, Dan Bolger, and Kelsi Bertheume.

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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Blazer
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431

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815-280-2313

Campus
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They employ educational centers for at-risk students, an exchange club center which provides classes to parents with at risk kids, a Hispanic Outreach Program and Suzy's Caring Place, which offers transitional housing for victims who are trying to break away from a domestic abuser.

The group works with local police departments in identifying recent victims of domestic abuse in order to cold-call the victim to check up on their personal safety.

The college's commitment to campus safety is aided in large part by the Grant to Reduce Violence on Campus, which was rewarded in 2012. Natalie Alexander acts as coordinator for the program which works with campus services and Guardian Angels to provide aid to at-risk students in abusive relationships. In addition, Alexander said they will organize educational forums in campus throughout the year.

The program has also proposed the implementation of two groups to help educate students and faculty in an effort to reduce domestic and sexual violence. The Not Even One group, whose mantra is that no one should become a victim of such violence.

In addition the group hopes to organize a men's group aimed at educating men in the hopes that males will hold others accountable for such behavior.

The goal is to exploit the research that has shown that the best way to combat abusive behavior in men is when other males act on behalf of the abused and condemn such behavior. "We know that the majority of men are not abusers and rapists," said Alexander.

Chief Comanda spoke more broadly about overall campus safety, detailing the most likely occurrences of crime on campus.

He was proud to point out a recent study conducted by the Dean of Students indicated that students felt safer on campus than outside of campus or near their homes.

"Our whole mission here is to make sure your educational experience is a safe one, that's what's important. If you're not thinking about that, it's a good thing. It means we're doing our job," said Comanda.

Crimes of opportunity, which is often theft, are the biggest concern for law enforcement on campus, according to Comanda.

"If you let yourself become a victim, you may very well become one," and said the most important step one can take to ensure their safety is to be aware of one's surroundings.

JJC Police offers a very successful program called Rape Aggression Defense, or RAD, which is offered through the police department and is a self-defense class offered to women.

Participants are taught by JJC Police officer Chris Lutrell, who

As coordinator for the Grant to Reduce Campus Violence at JJC, Natalie Alexander says the group is exploring different ways to raise awareness for domestic violence. One suggestion is an all-male group that promotes accountability between males. "Studies have shown that this this the best way to reach males," said Alexander. She spoke at the recent symposium on campus safety.

Photo by Richard Maska

conducts hands-on training that gives students a chance to "kick a cops butt," said Comanda jokingly.

These course takes place over several sessions which add up to 12 hours of training, and has been taught by Lutrell since 2006 and is one of his passions here on campus.

"What we need women to understand is that self-defense is not just physical, but it's also mental awareness, we want to make sure your aware of your surroundings," said Lutrell

Lutrell explained that it does not matter the stature, strength, size or age of a female, "You will be able to effectively destroy an individual," Lutrell said with a laugh, then corrected his phraseology to, "defend yourself from an individual.

The courses can be accessed online through the JJC Police link. The course cost $35, "But we've never charged that," asserted Comanda.

Towards the end of the program, an interactive poll was set up asking audience members whether or not they have seen an instance of domestic violence in campus, with 29 participants saying they had not, and five who did.

By university standards, this ratio is favorable and encouraging, and educational forums such as this are an indication of the college's mission to make campus safety a top priority.

STEM schools vie for students' interest

BY ALEX FORGUE

Co-Editor

On Sept. 30, Joliet Junior College hosted its second-annual Science, Tech, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) transfer fair.

Cheryl Turise, the Transfer Specialist at JJC whose job it is to organize the fair, told the Blazer that the fair is meant to allow students "to make as many connections and contacts to four-year universities and colleges as possible so that they can get the information that they need to transfer successfully."

The kind of information that Turise hopes students gain is about what classes they need to take here at JJC that will transfer as well as important deadlines for transferring and applying to the school of the student's choice.

"About 25 universities are in attendance today," said Turise who also noted that "some of the transfer fairs have about 50 universities."

When asked about what a transfer specialist such as herself does, Turise told the Blazer that her job involves "providing resources and reference materials for counselors and advisers as well as students."

She is also the one who designs and administrates all the transfer-information pages on the school's website.

Part of her job involves traveling all across Illinois to many different universities to get the most-up-to-date transfer information for students as well as arranging times for four-year schools to come visit JJC and talk to students.

Students of the welding technology classes at JJC also reached out to students who may be interested in the program.

Whitney Wardlow, a student at JJC, allowed students to try out one of the virtual welding machines that students use in the lab.

The machine has a helmet that you place on your head that allows you to see a virtual welding scenario.

"We have four virtual-welding machines in the welding lab" said Wardlow who explained that "these machines are great for intro-level students who make a lot of mistakes and it allows them to learn without wasting as much metal. The machine then grades how well the student did.

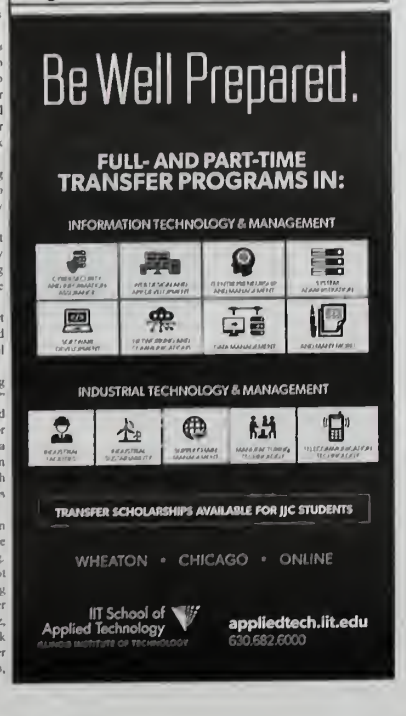
The machine also has a screen on that allows the professor to see exactly what the student is doing.

However, STEM fair was not only beneficial to those going into technical fields, but to other students as well. Ciara Gomez, a student at JJC, was able to talk to DePaul University about her transfer there as a public-relations, advertising and journalism major. "I didn't even realize that the fair was going on, but was excited to stop by when I saw it.

I think the fair was very helpful because I needed to talk to a counselor from DePaul, and I was able to do that today." Said Gomez.

Transfer fairs are not the only way that students can get information about transferring, the students can check online to see when they're prospective universities are going to be on campus or attend many of the transfer events such as transfer advising information session, the Fall Transfer Fair, that took place on Oct. 7.

Nick Gabriele, a welding student, demonstrated the machine.



Local troupe with JJC ties

A spectacular Halloween event returns to the stage in Joliet

"The Spirit of All Hallows Eve", an original theatrical production by The Bards' Guild Theater group, is about Halloween lore and legends and began as a unique attraction at Joliet's annual Pumpkinfest.

Although the larger outdoor event has yet to be resurrected, the Halloween show inside the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park auditorium theater takes the stage once again this October for four performances on Saturday Oct, 18 and Sunday 19 at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., both days.

While there are some mild and a few medium "scary" moments in the show, it is laden with adventure, excitement, a bit of history, even some words of wisdom, and lots of laughs. There are many wonderful characters and stunning visuals to provide enjoyment for the whole family.

An obscure fact about the Bards' Guild is its origin as a JJC student organization in the late 90's with a focus on open discussion and artistic expression. Some may remember the heated debates that echoed across the *bridge on Wednesday afternoons* or the *bizarre displays* on their table at Mainstreet.

With the abundant creative energy of the upstart group of over 40 members, they organized "The Festival of the Bards", a unique event to showcase their talent, artistry, and insight featuring various musical acts and dramatic performances characterized by their bardic flavor.

However, a long way from being a JJC club, many core members continued to associate under the Bards' Guild banner as an unofficial organization and lead to the creation of "The Spirit of All Hallows Eve" ; a brainchild of several members, including one of The Bards' Guilds' founding members and JJC alumni, Eric Moniger.

As of the show's creators, authors, and this year's director, Moniger drew from his experience with the Park's other holiday event, "The Festival of the Gnomes", by taking the same narrated storytelling style of theater and applying it to the original stories written for "The Spirit of All Hallows Eve." Assisting with direction and producing are Roger McReynolds and Ryan Devine, both JJC alumni. A group of 21 actors (including the director and his assistants) will bring the narrated stories to life once again after a six year hiatus. Featured in prominent roles are Sam Ryan, Cindi Goron, and Jordan Willner, as well as Melissa Locher, Cheryl Foster, Paul Darin, Leo Brumbaugh, and Elana Carmine, who appear as supporting characters. Performing other various character roles are, Mary Cushing, Andy McReynolds, Teddy Luccas, Bri Bell, Faye Ann Zolp, Kathryn Epling, Jenna Maue, Stephanie Ratajczak, Kiki Dasone, and Hope Gadson.

Performances are located at the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park Auditorium, 201 W. Jefferson St. in downtown Joliet. Admission is $5.00 for all ages (Cash and check only.) For reservations, call the Park at (815) 724 - 3761. More information can be found about the show at www.spiritofallhallows.com, and to keep updates on all events and performances at the Park, you can visit www.bicentennialpark.org

Witches burning in a Bards' Guild performance. The Joliet-based theater troupe has its roots in JJC during the 1990s when it was originally a student-run organization.

Courtesy of the Bards' Guild

The guild recreating a scene from ancient Egypt.

Broadway from page 1

He explained the responsibilities of a producer as being "like being the parent of the show."

He describes how they find the project, hire most of the theatre crew (composer, director, writer, etc.), manage the budget, and give input to the director of the show.

He then described his many involvements in Broadway shows like *Hairspray, the Producers, Leap of Faith, Legally Blonde,* and *the Wedding Singer.*

He explained why some of the shows remain popular to this day, while other productions failed.

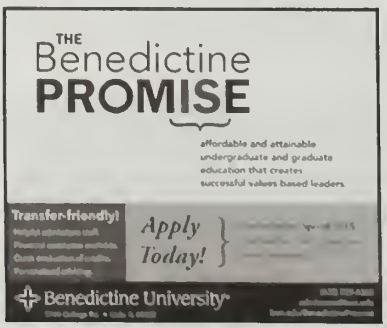
"You always learn more from the shows that flopped than the shows that were a hit," said Meyer.

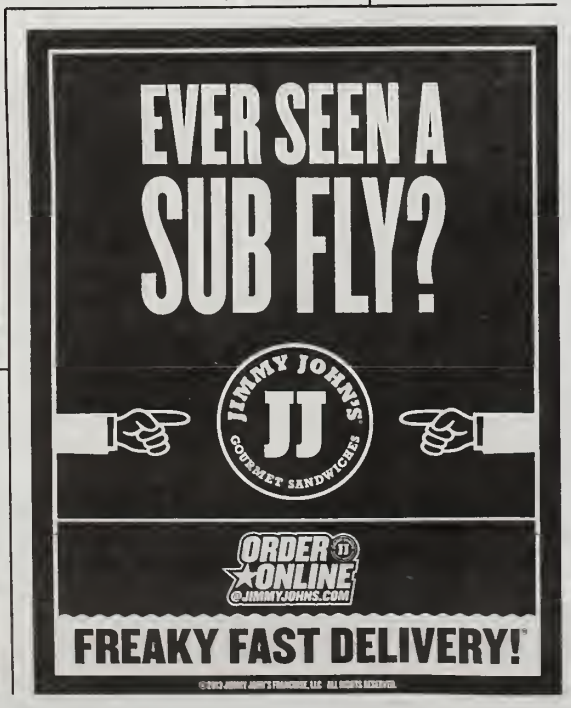
The rest of the evening allowed students in the audience to ask Meyer any questions relating to his success as a producer, experiences in casting, his favorite shows, and what it takes to be involved in theatre.

After the interview, Meyer offered students to hold his Tony Awards for pictures and shake his hand before they left.

Blowers hopes that Meyer's visit would impact many of her theatre students as an example of what success they can accomplish.

"I just want students to know that it is possible, but you got to work for it," said Blowers.





More than 40 clubs and organizations participate

Mainstreet 'wakes' students up to clubs

By Olivia Bergagna

Staff writer

"Wake up to a New Semester!" was the theme for this year's Main Street event held in the C-F concourse at Main Campus. The event took place Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 17-18, all clubs, groups, and organizations started to set their tables up at 10 a.m. in order to catch students passing through and promote their clubs, finishing up at 1 p.m. that afternoon.

Lined up along the walls for all students to stop at were over 50 tables for everyone to let the students know they are there. Each was filled with all different breakfast foods imaginable. Many stands had cereals, granola bars, or muffins. Even the occasional non-breakfast food item.

The Main Street at JJC has been a staple activity for the college and comes around once a semester to ensure that all new students are aware of what there is to be offered.

Amy Sims, the coordinator for student activities spoke about what the Office of Student Activities is trying to accomplish with Main Street.

"Our primary focus of the Office of Student Activities is to give clubs and opportunity to recruit for their organization," said Sims, "Also to share with students on campus all the different opportunities that we have."

After talking with several people from a variety of organizations, they all seem to agree that the main goal of Main Street is to make students aware of everything that JJC offers for them to get involved in and different services that many people are not aware of.

"Even though we are a community college, it's important for students to know that they do have rights here," said Jonathan Felt of the dean of the student's office.

"They are part of a larger community and they are part of a larger campus community, so it doesn't matter if they are here one day a week, or if they are here four hours a day, you know that you have a place to go and these are all the resources available to them."

As many were aware, last semester the Board of Trustees threatened to cut funding to all clubs at JJC in order to redistribute the funds to other areas of the school. At stake was the elimination of student clubs, a move that would leave them, and the Main Street event, a thing of the past.

Club members were not happy at the prospect of their clubs being shut down and decided to work together to show the board what they believed was the right decision, and try to change the board's minds about cutting the funding.

"When about 50 students show up at the Board meeting to express their concern with cuts, the message was pretty clear," said the director of student activities, Pam Dilday, about the budget crisis last year.

"I think that message was loud and clear to the board and I feel confident that we will not be cut in the near future."

Having said this, students can breathe a sigh of relief that all clubs will remain intact, and Main Street will still go on.

Lining the C-D concourse, Mainstreet gave the college's clubs the chance to recruit new members. *Photo by Bobby Mahome*

Employers on campus

Fair big hit with student job seekers

By Caitlyan Severson

Staff writer

JJC's annual part-time and seasonal job fair took place in the C-concourse of the main campus on Sept. 19. As 10 a.m. rolled around, representatives from different companies spent the morning engaging students in conversation, and explaining what they are offering in terms of employment.

This job fair was held for JJC students only, and these students were urged to dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes. There were also free resume critique service offered for the participants who are serious about getting the most out of this experience.

There were a substantial amount of businesses present on Friday looking to hire. The total number of businesses present was over 40, and the type of jobs offered ranged anywhere from warehousing and manufacturing, to retail and foodservice, to caregivers, and bank-tellers.

One of the businesses offering childcare positions was the YMCA of Metro Chicago. This particular YMCA is out of Naperville and Aurora, and they are offering three positions within their "Safe n' Sound" program which is a before-and-after school youth centered enrichment program.

The positions offered were the before and after school program instructor aide, site coordinator, and the before-and-after school program instructor.

"(We're) hoping to get the word out and have people apply today because of the desperate need for instructors and coordinators for classes that have already begun," said one representative who spoke to students and said these positions require a combination of experience with childcare and classes on childcare.

Another job opportunity dealing with caring for people was Visiting Angels which deals with cooking and cleaning, and general care for the elderly. The goal is for the elderly person to be able to still live in their home with the assistance of an extra set of hands for them. The job being offered was titled home service worker, prior experience with the elderly was a requirement.

Additionally, NAPA Auto parts of Lockport were represented at the job fair for the third year in a row. NAPA was offering positions in part-time delivery, and was optimistic because of good experiences with this fair in the past. Their representative, Detra Page, said that "The last couple of years have been busy and we have seen a lot of people come through."

Finally, I was able to talk to a Representative from McQ's Sports Bar and Dome in Bolingbrook, who said, "We are looking for energetic Servers and Bartenders." It was their first time at the job fair and they were there recruiting primarily because their winter season is busy.

To get some perspective from the participant's vantage point, first-year student named Brandon who was looking for part-time employment. He had done some volunteering over the summer and was hoping that would work to his benefit.

"A variety of jobs that would fit my availability," he said when describing which jobs he was interested in specifically. He said he had heard of the job fair by word of mouth and it was going well for him. Hopefully the same can be said by all of the participants that pass through the job fair.

Computer from page 1

logical for me to be in control of both aspects to make everything go more smoothly, and so far it has been."

"My dad used to own a business, mainly home remodeling, so I kind of had the entrepreneurial type bug in me from him, knowing there's a whole lot more potential for profit, and it's just a lot more rewarding to work for myself," said McAllister.

McAllister was born in Chicago, but raised in Frankfort. His interest in computers began as long as he could remember, as his father also worked as an IT project manager.

"As long as I can remember he'd bring computers home from work and I was always fascinated by it."

Paragon Computer Repair & Consulting has been operating officially since May of 2014, but McAllister had been freelancing for nearly a year and a half. His biggest initial concerns were establishing a business name, logo, and keeping accurate records for tax purposes.

"I have plans for incorporation, which is kind of the next step for me," said McAllister, who drew on previous employment experiences for designing his business model.

These experiences gave him insight into common customer complaints, most of which is the requirement for the customer to bring their unit to the store.

"They would call over the phone and would want help or advice over the phone, and we were told to tell them just bring it in," and could not offer any over-the-phone support, McAllister said of his previous employers practices.

McAllister forgoes this issue by offering free pick-up and delivery, a service he used to charge but does not anymore. This free service gives him a great advantage over the competition, and also allows for personalized service unique to his business.

McAllister recalls one customer, pleased with his customer service, was gleaming and said, "This is great, I didn't even have to get out of my P.J.s!"

Although he's experimented with various prices for his services, he generally charges a flat rate of $125 for most of the jobs he's done.

"There's some things that are lower," such as data transfer and smaller jobs, "but I found it's a whole lot more simple to have a flat rate, and most people like it a lot more."

In addition to servicing computers, McAllister also installs home security systems and replaces broken or damaged screens for mobile devices such as tablets and smart phones.

Keen to expand his cliental, McAllister is making attempts to target college students, placing flyers around campus, and offering discounts for college students to maximize his competitiveness in pricing.

By keeping personal ties with his previous jobs, McAllister is able to track competitive rates for various jobs. "I'm pretty far below the others (competitor pricing) but I try to keep it lower."

"I'm more equipped to handle more issues that most of the mainstream computer repair stores," such as data recovery, or hardware work such as soldering are other advantages McAllister says his business has over his competitors.

"Or if it's something that's a quick fix I may do it remotely by logging in at my site, or I may go on site and do it at their house or business."

McAllister is looking to hire an employee to operate his business when he transfers to the University of Illinois next fall. For McAllister, the sky is the limit as far as where he sees his business in the next several years.

"I want to take this as far as I can, I took a big risk when I retired from Tiger Direct and kind of put all my eggs in one basket, so to speak."

"For me, it's something more rewarding because you can work for a company, and do all of their work, but at the end of the day, don't get much from it. Maybe a little experience, but as far as something you can say is yours you don't get that."

McAllister explained that having your own company allows you to have a broader customer base, better ratings, and something he can call his own.

The risk he took was financial. From receiving a steady paycheck to being paid as work comes. "That's the main risk; It does take a lot of time," and McAllister has had to balance work, friends and leisure time, all while keeping his job and school a top priority.

"Not all friends are as understanding as others," McAllister remarked about the time he dedicates to his work, "fortunately, most of mine do."

Currently, McAllister is a full-time student is taking prerequisites to later earn a master's degree in computer engineering.

Down the road, the next big step for McAllister is to compete with Intell and AMD in the production of micro-processors, a risk considering how the market is currently dominated.

"Technological advancements aren't really where they should be, they're kind of plateaued so far, and neither one is really pushing the envelope." Rather each company is content to make incremental advances to their products knowing that their lack of innovation carries little risk.

"I hope to be the third guy to step in, kick it up higher so that everyone else will follow," McAllister said.

In addition to running his own business, full-time student duties, he recently joined the Intervarsity Christian Group on campus and is also a candidate for the JJC honors society.

To reach McAllister's business, visit his website at www.paragoncrc.com/.

Jason McAllister has serviced over 400 customers through his business, Paragon Computer Repair & Consulting.

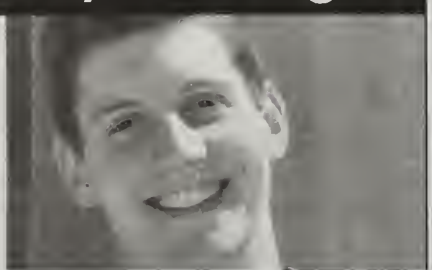
Photo by Richard Maska

It's a simple transfer to ...

Concordia University Chicago

"The financial aid I received from CUC made it much more affordable than transferring anywhere else in my case. My admission counselor was always in contact with me, and she was so helpful in getting my credits transferred—she made it so easy to transfer here."

—Paul Horstmeyer, theology major (pre-seminary), mathematics and biblical languages minors, from Fort Wayne, Indiana



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Chrissy Stelter
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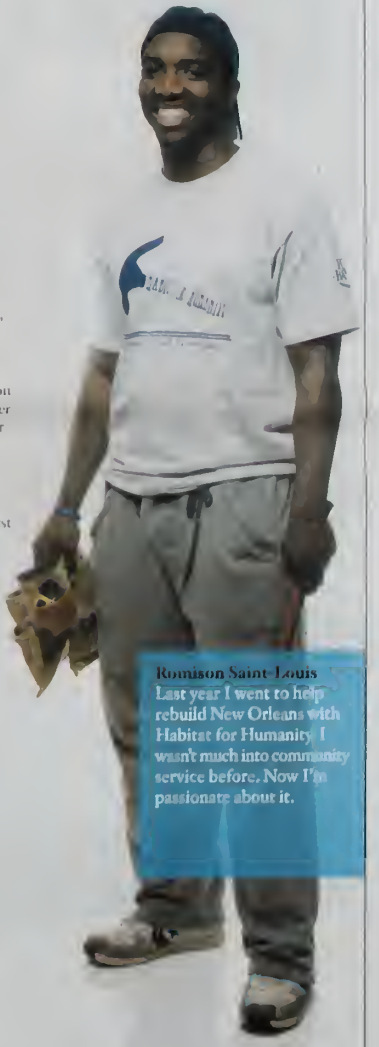

Romison Saint-Louis
Last year I went to help rebuild New Orleans with Habitat for Humanity. I wasn't much into community service before. Now I'm passionate about it.

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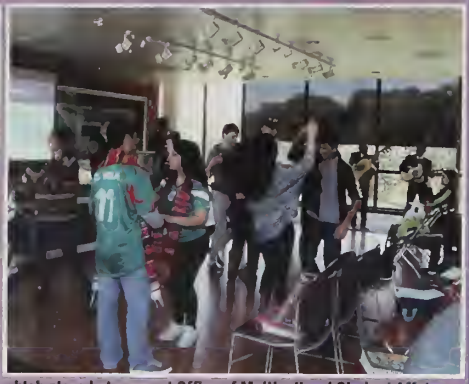
Showtime at JJC



Students dancing to the performance of the Ameca Mariachi band, which played at a recent Office of Multicultural Student Affairs event on the Bridge.

Impressionist Brandon Styles gets a laugh out of the crowd dancing as Napoleon Dynamite.

Styles, as magician Chris Angel, is assisted by two volunteer students, Claudia and Andrew.

Photos by Jami Shawmeker

JJC infielder Thomas Smith tags out a Waubonsee College baserunner in a Sept. 16 exhibition game victory for the Wolves.

Restaurant review

Break from your fasting: Happy Place Café Vs. Old Fashioned Pancake House

BY TIM BUNCE
Staff writer

Jefferson Street. Route 52. Whatever you call it, you know that between downtown Joliet and Shorewood it is loaded with strip malls and places to eat. Naturally, I decided to check a couple of these places out.

You may also know that breakfast is considered the quote un-quote most important meal of the day. So if you haven't figured it out yet, I'm battling out breakfast on 52 this issue. Old Fashioned Pancake House in Joliet is going up against Happy Place Café in Shorewood.

Old Fashioned Pancake House and Happy Place Café both have breakfast, lunch and dinner menus. They also are the types of places where you can get breakfast any time of the day. While both have multiple skillets, omelets, waffles with toppings, crepes and French toast options, I kept it pretty simple and basic. I had scrambled eggs with cheese, sausage, bacon, hash browns and pancakes at both places.

The eggs at the pancake house were delicious. The cheese was melted in and mixed well. This made for a gooey concoction that was both rich and flavorful throughout each bite. The eggs at the café were pretty good as well. But really, how hard is it to screw up eggs? As long as there are not shells in it, then it is fine. However, the cheese at the café is melted on top. This does not blend and flow quite as easy. For that reason alone, the edge goes to pancake house.

The sausage links at both the pancake house and the café are done in a skillet. And quite honestly both taste about the same. I guess they seemed to taste a little less salty at the Pancake House so they win again.

Ah, bacon. Does life really need anything else? Of course it does. However, bacon does make meals better. The bacon at the Pancake House is good. They are big pieces. However, they are a little crispy for my personal taste.

The Café also has big pieces. However, they asked me if I wanted it crispy or chewy. I thought the only way I got that option is if I made it myself. Bacon cooked to my liking or bacon cooked to your liking? Well played, Happy Place Café. Well played.

Would you like taters with your breakfast? Sure, why not? These two places do their hash browns different. While the Pancake House has their hash browns in a chunky type of style, the Café has the stringy kind. Both places lack flavor, but that is why they put salt on the tables. However, to me anyway, when I think of hash browns I think of stringy. Thus, we are tied at two points each.

Finally we are left with pancakes to break this tie. Unfortunately, this category was not very competitive. The Pancake House's pancakes just fell apart and crumbled while I tried to fork them. On the other hand, the Café had some of the best pancakes I have had. No contest here.

The Old Fashioned Pancake House located at 2202 W. Jefferson St. in Joliet, has been around since 1986 and is one of the most popular places to eat in Joliet. The manager on duty, Maria Dontes talked about how great of business it is: "It is definitely a business model for people wanting to go into business," said Dontes.

She also mentioned that they are a very friendly place that prides themselves on customer service and satisfaction.

The Happy Place Café located at 1150 W. Jefferson St. in Shorewood. Their goal is to keep this place family owned and operated and to cater to a family atmosphere.

"We like to try and keep people happy because it's the happy place," said Dionna Butler, the manager on duty.

When asked about any other locations, Butler said there is an idea out there to possibly open one up in the LaGrange area, but not for a long time.

I think both places have pretty good customer service with decent food at reasonable prices.

Both places offer great portions as well. Although the food I had gave a slight edge to the Happy Place Café, I would quite frankly eat at both places again.

With some of the best pancakes I've ever had, Happy Place Cafe takes home top honors for best breakfast joint.

Since its inception in 1988, the Old Fashioned Pancake House is one of the most popular restaurants in Joliet.

Photos by: Tim Bunce

Concert review

Musica Viva season kicks off

BY JAMI SHAWMEKER
Staff Writer

On Sept. 14, 2014 the JJC fine arts department kicked off their Musica Viva Recital Series with a cello and piano recital, held in the Main Campus Fine Arts Theater. Musica Viva, or "living music", is in its twenty first year here at JJC providing performances to the college campus and the community.

Performers may include faculty, graduate students, alumni, and both national and international guests. There are seven performances set for this school year, including today's performance, and all are held at 3 p.m.

The Sept 14 performance was given by Anna Cho Walker, cellist and Dr. Daniela Broderick, pianist, and featured music by Igor Stravinsky and Ludwig Van Beethoven. The next recital is on Oct. 12, by the JJC faculty jazz ensemble, followed by a performance on Nov. 2, by "Chinchano" Juan Pastor's modern instrumental jazz group.

The pieces performed today included Igor Stravinsky's Suite Italienne composed in 1932-33 it was derived from what he had written for Pulcinella, a ballet, and was composed with Gregor Pietogrosky.

Walker described during the performance she felt like this was an extension of what she learned in Graduate School because her mentor, Terry King, studied under Pietogrosky at USC.

The next piece was composed by Ludwig van Beethoven in 1815 and was considered an unconventional string piece. It has two short and concentrated movements and an interesting dialogue between the cello and the piano. The fourth Sonata in C major is a whirlwind of movement drastically changing mood and bringing the audience through a rollercoaster of emotions.

Possibly my favorite piece from the performance today was composed by Robert Schumann in 1849 and was originally meant for the Clarinet and the Piano. It is characteristic of his pieces with sudden and dramatic changes in mood as well as a classic dialogue between the two instruments. Walker talked about this piece through the words of her mentor saying, "Music either sings or dances, this is a great way of approaching different pieces".

Walker is new to the JJC faculty this being her second semester on board teaching cello.

She has a master's in performance in cello performance from the Hartt School of music and a bachelor's in performance from DePaul University's school of music and has worked with several groups including Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago String Quartet, the Miami String Quartet, and the Pacific String Quartet. She has gained experience performing with orchestras in Chicago, Boston, and Connecticut. While she has been an instructor at JJC for the past two semesters she also teaches private less department chair for the Fine arts department, is an Associate Professor in Music, and has been part of the faculty for six years. She has performed throughout Brazil and the United States.

Her performances include soloing with the Rio De Janeiro Federal University Orehestra, the JJC Brass Ensemble, the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orehestra, and recitals at the Brahms' series in Colorado, and music at Moser at the University of St. Francis.

Broderick has awards from the Montes Claros and Vitoria da Conquista Piano Competitions, the Concerto competition of the Rio De Janeiro Federal University Orehestra. Broderick has a D.M.A in piano performance from the University of Illinois, as well as degrees in piano performance from both the University of Colorado and Rio De Janeiro Federal University in Brazil.

After the performance I had the pleasure of talking to both Broderick and Walker.

When asked about what piece was their favorite performed today Broderick, like myself, felt the Schumann piece was her favorite while Walker was torn stating, "All of them are my favorite just for different reasons".

When asked about playing other instruments Walker thought of the cello as her main instrument while only playing the piano as hobby and Broderick only plays the piano.

The performance today was a beautiful rendition of three pieces of music. When listening to music from now on ask yourself this does the piece sing or dance to you? I know that is how I will be listening to music from now on.

There are five additional performances scheduled through next spring semester: On Jan. 25, 2015 Ellen Goodwin and Tracey Ford will perform vocally whilst accompanied by Laura Kutscher on piano.

On Feb. 5, 2015 there will be a performance by the Magnificent Metal IV: Brass and Organ Recital: with Charles Morgan (Director) on Trombone, Philip Spencer on the organ, and the JJC Brass Quintet at Historic St. Joseph Church located in Joliet's City Center, 416 North Chicago Street.

On March 15, 2015 Giulio Draghi will perform on the piano, and finally on April 26, 2015 Adam Cowger ends this 2014-2015 Musica Viva Series with a percussion recital.

Daniela Broderick (piano) and Anna Cho Walker (cello) at the Sept. 14 Musica Viva concert played selections from Ludwig Von Beethoven and Igor Stravinsky. This was the first in a series of Musica Viva concerts, the next will be on Sunday, Oct. 12, at the Fine Arts Theater. *Jami Shawmeker*

Book review

Honeymoon murder on high seas

BY KELSI BURTHEUME
Staff Writer

Murder of a Needled Knitter is the newest book from Denise Swanson. It is book number 17 in the Scrumble River mysteries series.

This book picks up a couple days after the previous book, *Murder of a Stocked Liberian*, left off, on Skye and Wally's honeymoon.

After a couple days on the cruise Skye realized her mom was onboard because she saw a picture being taken at the beach at the first port of call.

This causes Skye to become extremely worried about what might happen.

Her concern is well-founded, because her mom does get into trouble with the security chief on the ship, but is it part of the mystery? You can't be sure unless you read it.

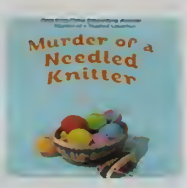
I won't say too much more about the plot, bot assure you it is an awesome read. Which is to be expected, I love Swanson's style and have read a lot of her books.

Unlike the previous books she wrote, it was a little harder to solve the mystery since anybody on the cruise ship could be the murderer.

I loved the challenge to find clues, sometimes obvious, sometimes not.

It is one of my favorite books in the series this far.

I may be judging lightly on this author, but I can never put any of her books down, even when it's time to eat or I'm walking somewhere.



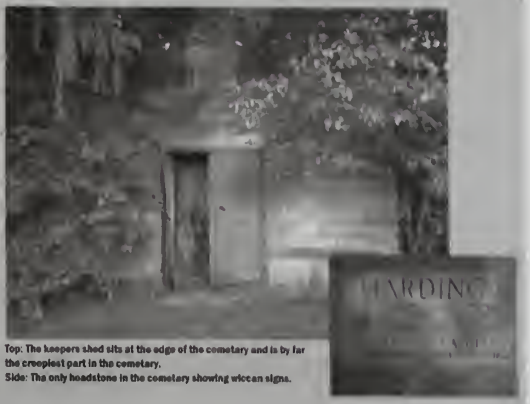
Courtesy of amazon.com

Two most haunting cemeteries in Illinois

BY BRITTNEY ANDERSEN

Production manager

This weeping angel crypt is one of many in this haunted cemetery.



Top: The keepers shed sits at the edge of the cemetery and is by far the creepiest part in the cemetery.
Side: The only headstone in the cemetery showing wiccan signs.

Resurrection Cemetery

According to popular local legend, Resurrecton Marry was a young girl who was killed in a hit-and-run accident while walking along Archer Avenue. Her ghost has been seen by many people since the 1930s. She may appear as a hitchhiker and ask to be driven along Archer Road, or she may appear standing in the street in front of the cemetery. Find out yourself and visit the Resurrection Cemetery!

Aux Sable Cemetery

Aux Sable Cemetery was built on top of an indian burial ground and it was also known to be a place where witchcraft rituals were held. It is also believed to be haunted by the ghost of a mischievous young girl who has been known to play pranks, such as lowering electrical car windows when the key is not even in the ignition

Photos by Brittney Andersen

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JJC Outdoor Outlook

Area fishing report

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We advocate catch and release and sustainable hunting and fishing that promotes a healthy ecosystem for generations to come.

Area Rivers:

Illinois: several anglers are catching sauger on the Peru flats and clam beds. Mike Gorman of Angelo's Bait Shop, Wilmington, reported several anglers cashing in on the legendary white bass run, "pulling in tons of 'em on basically anything shiny," namely spinnerbaits and buzzbaits, primarily in the Ottawa and Starved Rock area.

Kankakee: Walleye are reported to be hitting hitting large minnow baits around inflows. Some report smallmouth in the Wilmington area, mainly on large minnows, but some on nittlebaits or crankbaits.

Dupage: Anglers reporting solid smallmouth action on small crankbaits in shad patterns, primarily in East and West branch sections of the river. Main section continues to be slow, but smallmouth bite should pick up with onset of fall. Many are chasing first year shad and minnows now that they have bulked up in size; casting minnow type baits will yield greatest success.

Cooling lakes:

Heidecke, and Braidwood Lakes are already closed to fishing for waterfowl season. There is still time to nab some of LaSalle Lake's vaunted blue catfish before the lake closes for hunting on Oct. 15.

Strip Pits in Wilmington Area:

Most of Mazonia will be closed for fishing on Oct. 8 with the exception of Monster Lake. Fortunately, Monster has been producing large numbers of catfish in deeper areas, largemouth bass in shallower waters. Lately it has been a crappie bonanza, with anglers nabbing large numbers at 12-15 feet using minnows.

Smaller strip mine lakes have also reported good crappie catches, but because these smaller lakes are cooling quicker than Monster, most are caught at far more shallow depths.

Hunting:

Archery hunting for deer and turkey opened on Oct. 1 and duck, coot and merganser seasons open Oct. 18.

The joys of kayak fishing

BY RICHARD MASKA

Co-editor

I rested the paddle across the kayak and the direction of the craft steadied with the nose pointed to the shore at a 45 degree angle. The current pushed me along parallel to the bank and from a casts' length, I was able to place the bait only one or two feet from away from the shore; just where I wanted it. The plastic worm fell down the steep slope of the old quarry before it reached the bottom.

Within an instant the slackened line tightened, and after a pause I set the hook on another bass which proceeded to drag my boat in whichever direction the fish felt like. A minute of struggle passed until I was able to work the fish near enough to land, but not before a final desperate plunge that bent the rod over nearly in half.

At just over five pounds, this is probably the biggest smallmouth of my life. It was caught in the main tributary of Shagawa Lake near Minnesota's boundary waters on a Rapala X-Rap. –Richard Maska, Co-editor

Taking a selfie of a fish while in the confines of a kayak is no easy task, particularly if the phone is badly outdated. I managed a quick shot before releasing the fish back, a moment of exultation for the both of us.

This scene was repeated numerous times over the summer as I became acquainted with kayak fishing for the first time, and used it to kill-out time-after-time on Lake Chaminwood in Channahon.

My eight-foot craft is short on spaciousness and comfort; but its strength, and the strength of small-craft fishing in general, is the access it allows me to fish spots that no land fishermen could ever achieve.

From local retention ponds, small Forest Preserve lakes, to medium sized rivers, kayak fishing can solve many of the problems that dog the average fisherman: lack of manageable shore spots, the inability to cast towards and not away from the bank, and access to (mid-lake structure that before you could only see on a map. All of this without the need to hitch a trailer just to travel with a larger boat.

There are difficulties for sure. Confined space, the inability to stand (in most small-craft models), and above all else, managing the direction of the kayak while simultaneously trying to cast and fish. Often the lake's current swings the nose away from your intended casting target, and one can spend too long readjusting one's course with the paddle.

But make no mistake, my success on Lake Chaminwood would pale in comparison had I been fishing from land. Its steep drop-off from the shore means that most of the fish in the lake orientate rather close to the bank, which makes reaching those areas with parallel casts from shore close to impossible.

Best of all, it's affordable. A good kayak can run you anywhere from $250 to $400 dollars, whereas a decent boat, even used, can set you back thousands of dollars.

There are plenty of waters nearby that have kayak launching sites, making entry and docking a breeze. It gets you out into nature, and onto the water in an intimate way not possible from shore or from any other boat for that matter.

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Womens soccer commentary

Team struggles but shows no quit

BY ELIAS ALBERT
Copy Editor

Women's soccer at JJC is currently in a period of struggle. They are still seeking their first win since 2012, when the program fell apart and ceased to exist in 2013. To say that it's been rough, would be a bit of an understatement.

On top of an already small roster, three players have been lost for the season and the team is now playing with just one substitute or none at all.

To add insult to injury, the team is still dealing with identity issues, which should be expected from a team that is, essentially, brand new.

The remaining schedule doesn't really favor the team in their pursuit of a first win. They'll play their final five regular-season games on the road.

UNABLE TO SCORE

Scoring has been hit and miss for the Lady Wolves. The team has been shutout four times, which, added to the fact that they're surrendering around four goals per game, makes it even tougher for the squad to crack the win column.

Head coach Larry Graiber weighed in on the struggle. "We knew going into the season that it was going to be tough with a small roster like this one.

I felt with the talent we had, being at .500 at the end of the season would be a solid goal for reviving the program."

Despite having yet to put together their first victory in nearly two years, the team is still making strides in development.

"I have coached a lot of teams over the years, but I have to say that this is one is one of the top teams in regards to team effort They leave it all on the field and play 100 percent for all 90 minutes," said Graiber.

Effort is always a key when trying to get any team to successfully endure a rebirth.

Graiber gave plenty of praise to all of his players, saying that "they have all contributed to the team.

Many of the players have been playing out of their natural position to shore up the team."

His players definitely do deserve some recognition. Goalkeeper Maura Alroth is second in the conference in saves.

She's had to face a lot of shot attempts, but has managed to minimize the damage done to the Lady Wolves.

With the work the team has done as far as improving, there is plenty of hope for production in the future for this young program.

LESSONS ALL AROUND

On multiple occasions, most notably in the professional level of sports, expansion teams definitely have the potential for eventual success.

The best example of this can be seen with the NFL's New York Jets.

The Jets entered the NFL's then-counterpart, the AFL, in 1960. They did see some early struggle, just like the 2014 Lady Wolves, but it would get better and it did so quickly

In 1965, the Jets drafted Joe Namath, a quarterback out of Alabama.

Namath would quickly help create an atmosphere for winning and in 1968, just his third year in the league, the Jets would win the Super Bowl by defeating the heavily-favored Baltimore Colts by a score of 16-7.

This story's important because it shows just how completely a bad team can turn things around

The key for the winning Jets, was that they found Namath. For the Lady Wolves, it may take the same, finding a player who can lead the team consistently and put together strong performances game-in and game-out.

For lack of a better term, the Lady Wolves need to find their "Jenna" Namath. Whether this Jenna Namath is on the team now or soon will be, she'll be the deliverer behind any sort of program success.

As far as this season, there is definitely a sense of rebuilding and development. Graiber and his Lady Wolves are leading the charge for the future members of this team.

If they can put together a victory before the season concludes, it will do wonders for both the confidence in the players and the future of the program.

Marylin Remen gives an expression of agony after a header. Despite the team's best efforts, this season has been one of struggle.

Goalkeeper Maura Alroth makes another great save in the Sept. 12 loss to College of Dupage. The sophomore goalkeeper has been a stalwart for the Lady Wolves this season.

Photos by: Jami Shawmeker

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Growth and leadership give Maddie Hipp her edge

BY OLIVIA BERGAGNA

Staff writer

There are some cases in life where practice does make perfect. Having played volleyball since she was nine years-old, Madeline Hipp has become one of the best players on the Lady Wolves' volleyball team. Madeline, or Maddie, has come from a long line of relatives to who were also compelled to play.

Graduating from Joliet Catholic Academy, Maddie has lived her whole life in Joliet, Illinois and has been attending JJC ever since graduation. After coming from a background of playing only libero since a young age, Head Coach Lakisha Cameron decided it was time to change things up a bit.

Last year, Cameron had Maddie practicing as an outside hitter for the first time. As many around her know now though, Maddie has come a long way in order to be where she is now in this position. "Last year was my first year as an outside hitter," Hipp states, thinking back on learning the new position. "Kisha (Cameron) just really sharpened my skills, and I just kind of blossomed."

One short year is enough to change what kind of player a person is and how everyone looks at you. Bianca Jimenez, a returning sophomore for the team this year, comments on how Madeline has changed from this year to last, saying, "I think last year she was a lot less vocal. She would cheer when things were going good, but when things weren't going so well, she wouldn't be the person to say like, 'Let's go, we need to get this done.' She would just sit back and let other people do it. I think she's more vocal about things this year."

Hipp's positive attitude and ability to learn quickly – whether it be on offense or defense – has helped her to grow both individually, and with her team.

Any regular attendee to these volleyball games would notice that Hipp is always in the game and giving it her all. In addition to giving every game the best that she's got, Maddie is the captain of the team and is in charge of everyone else and making sure they are doing everything correctly.

Andie Zadorozny, a freshman here at JJC, clarified what hard work Maddie actually does for the team. "She handles a lot of pressure really well," says Zadorozny. "I don't think I could do it the way she does it. And she does it without a complaint."

Keeping up with this team would be madness off-court. Bianca Jimenez notes that the team last year was, "just a team," stating that they came to volleyball and that was the only time they ever communicated. Even with a rocky beginning, the girls have made quick friendships and are learning to work together better as a team. This year, all of the girls hang out outside of volleyball and the closeness of the girls off-court greatly benefits their relationship on-court and how they play together.

One thing that Hipp would like to see in this coming season is the team playing as a whole and keeping the great relationships that they all have together, as well as a trip to regionals, but the team is more important to her.

The future looks bright for Madeline Hipp in her volleyball career. Within the next year, she's hoping to decide which four-year university she'd like to play volleyball for. She currently has multiple Division I schools looking to recruit her along with some Division II schools hoping that she will play for them come next season.

Team captain, Madeline Hipp, leads the Wolves by example, handling the pressure "without complaint," said teammate, Andie Zardoronzy.

Photo courtesy of jjc.edu

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Womens volleyball

Despite challenges, team hopes to finish strong

BY JOEL ROZA
Sports editor

At 10-16 (3-5 N4C) on the season, it probably goes without saying that Lady Wolves volleyball isn't having the season they envisioned.

Their five-game losing streak from Sept. 25 to Sept. 30 took a team in the middle-of-the-road and propelled them to the bottom of the conference, giving them a healthy hole to dig out of as the season's final six games approach.

However, with a two-game winning streak currently in play, the Lady Wolves appear to have found momentum at just the right time.

In their Oct. 1 win over Aurora University JV, sophomore Madeleine Hipp led the team with 9 kills and was tied for second on the team with 14 digs.

Freshman Andie Zadarozny was second on the team with 6 kills and led the team with 19 digs as JJC took all three sets, with scores of 25-22, 25-19, and 25-24, respectively.

On Oct. 2, the Lady Wolves took it to Moraine Valley CC in five sets, 3-2, taking the last two for the decisive win.

HIPP LEADING THE WAY

With a team-leading 200 kills this season (with a team-leading 48 in N4C play), it's safe to say that sophomore Madeleine Hipp is probably a little eager to wrap up her final season at JJC with a showing she and her teammates can be proud of

The road to winning finish will wind through road games against Moraine Valley CC on Oct. 6, and Triton College on Oct. 7. JJC's scheduled game with College of DuPage on Oct. 9 will be forfeited by DuPage due to the cancellation of their program for the 2014 season.

The "win" will only count towards the team's conference record, leaving their overall record unchanged.

The final two home games of the regular season take place on Oct. 14 against conference-rival Rock Valley, and on Oct. 16 against Elgin Community College.

The regular season wraps on the road on Oct. 21 against Illinois Valley CC.

TOUGH ROAD IN TOURNAMENT PLAY

With a sub-.500 record in conference play thus far this season, it's probably a good bet that the Lady Wolves will see their fair share of struggles early on against familiar foes.

But if these winning ways continue and the team continues to gel, there's no telling what could happen when the Lady Wolves show up.

Tournament schedules will be released shortly via the Blazer's website.

Remaining Volleyball Schedule

Oct. 9 College of DuPage
Time: 6 p.m.

Oct. 14 Rock Valley CC
Time: 6 p.m.

Oct. 16 Elgin CC
Time: 6 p.m.

Oct. 21 at Illinois Valley CC
Time 6 p.m.

At left: Brihanna Sawin, 10, setting up Amanda McLeroy, 8, during a Sept. 30 loss to Harper College.

At right: The team celebrates a point win during their bout against Harper College.

Photos by. Jami Shanemeker

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SPORTS

Men's soccer gaining steam as postseason approaches

Team captain Jamelson Jamnik, left, makes the Rock Valley defender pay the price as Jamnik rockets this shot in the Wolves' 1-0 victory over Rock Valley.

Photo by Jami Shawneker

BY JOEL ROZA

Sports editor

Much like last season, JJC has found that midseason extra gear and is rolling into the latter portion of the 2014 season with momentum on their side.

Riding a three-game winning streak through Oct. 1, the Wolves (7-4-1 overall, 6-1-1 N4C) have found nothing but smooth sailing since Sept. 19, going 4-1 in that span, allowing a grand total of two goals while scoring 11 of their own.

The Wolves' ability to score at will while keeping the opposition down has played well for them. Standing currently as the 25th ranked offense in the nation among Division III schools, JJC enters this final, crucial stretch with as prolific an offense as it comes in these parts.

The good times have rolled, in large part, because of sophomore F. Leatile Masula (4 goals, 6 assists and 14 points), and the emergence of Freshmen C's Nestor Rodriguez and Miguel Sanchez. Freshman goalkeeper Ramiro Ayala has been superb this season, allowing 9 goals while recording 43 saves, good for a .827 save percentage.

The team's current streak, the longest of the season, has the Wolves sitting atop the conference standings, able to look down upon foes such as Rock Valley, Madison, Harper, Triton and Milwaukee Tech. That will be an advantageous view come late October.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the regular season winds down, the Wolves will find their out-of-conference mettle tested in preparation for the postseason.

After taking on Triton College on the road on Oct. 3 and hosting Madison College on Oct. 8, JJC's conference record will be set, leaving a road match-up with Kankakee CC on Oct 10, and then two home tilts to close out the season. South Suburban College will make its way to JJC on Oct. 14, and McHenry College will help JJC close out the regular season on Oct. 16.

While winning out is a fine goal to have as the regular seasons winds down, the Wolves are more focused on maintaining their top conference ranking, giving them the necessary confidence they'll need in likely rematches with teams they've dispatched in the recent past.

Expect coach Trillo to keep his men focused going forward with an eye towards the playoffs, slated to begin in just under three weeks.

REMAINING SCHEDULE

Oct. 8 Madison College
Time: 4 p.m.

Oct. 10 at Kankakee CC
Time: 3:30 p.m.

Oct. 14 South Suburban College
Time: 4 p.m.

Oct. 16 McHenry County College
Time: 3:30 p.m.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Miguel Sanchez

Sanchez has powered the Wolves to three wins in a row. He scored a goal in the 1-0 victory over Rock Valley College, two goals in the 2-1 win over Harper College, and one goal in the 4-0 victory at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Jalyn Vertin

Vertin helped lead the Lady Wolves Volleyball Team to a 2-1 record this week with wins over Aurora University JV in three sets and Moraine Valley Community College in five sets. She leads the team in solo blocks with 44 and has 128 kills for the season.

INSIDE

Basketball seasons underway

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Check out our new website!
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Joliet Junior College
Blazer

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2014 VOLUME 87 ISSUE 9

'Major fair' a success

Some 735 students packed the old cafeteria in J-Building to take part in the college's first Major Exploration Fair. *Photo by Olivia Bergagna*

BY OLIVIA BERGAGNA
Staff writer

With 735 attendees, the Nov. 5 Major Exploration Fair was one of JJC's most successful events for the students this year. The fair allowed students to look into their future and begin to explore the degree options JJC has, and what possible career paths are available.

Being the first year that this event has taken place, the outcome was more than JJC had ever hoped for.

According to the Career Services department, 90 percent of the attendees were JJC students while the remaining attendees were high school students, students from other

See Exploration page 4

JJC cooking club 'harvests superstars'

BY DON BOLGER
Staff writer

Are you the next great chef? If you have the desire to cook and would like to know if you have what it takes to compete, there's a JJC club that may be for you.

Joliet Junior College is the home of the successful Competitive Cooking Club and, according to club adviser Chef Kyle Richardson, "We always harvest a bunch of superstars." JJC chefs are "always sought after," he said once they complete their education.

The club is open to all students. There are no special qualifications.

"If you're passionate about cooking, there is something for everyone a chili competition or a cookie or brownie competition," Richardson said.

He added, "The club exists for students to have a fun way to get started and try their hand at culinary. This business is very competitive and the club gets you into the realm of competing—so this is a way to get started."

Although the club meets regularly on the second Thursday of each month, "The members practice in the kitchen every Monday and Thursday," Richardson said.

Richardson, the youngest of five children, began his culinary career by cooking for his family as a kid. From there he made his way up the restaurant ladder in his hometown of New Orleans, La., by cooking and learning the Creole cuisine the city is known for. He's been a JJC Culinary Arts Professor since 2000 and coaches the Hot Foods team that recently won their first state title.

The president of Competitive Cooking Club is Laci Lanclos, a second-year student, who also hails from Louisiana.

A former dental assistant, Lanclos decided to pursue her passion for culinary when she and her husband, Nicholas, moved to Illinois.

"I heard about the club after starting the JJC culinary program," Lanclos said. "I joined

See Club page 4

Police host first 'Coffee with a Cop'

BY ALEX FORGUE
Co-editor

Students on Nov. 5 had the chance to better familiarize themselves with JJC's men and women in blue as the department hosted its first "Coffee with a Cop" event. The event was held in the open in the cafeteria so students who were passing by could stop, grab of cup of coffee, and have a conversation with members of the campus police department.

The event was organized by officer Randall Graves who took on the project of bringing the national event to the JJC campus. Graves has spent over a year on this event, and had to go to a class to get certified so he could organize the event.

Graves wanted to organize the program because he wanted to break down the barriers between students and campus police and make police officers approachable to students. Graves explained that "We want to be able to make students aware of what services the police department offers." Graves went on to list a few of these services such as escorting students to their cars, domestic violence issues, stalking issues, and that the police department will even give you free gas if your car runs out of gas on the side of the road.

When asked about what kind of barriers he thought existed between students and campus police, Graves went on to explain that there are many "misconceptions" that students have about the department. "Many students don't know that JJC has a sworn police

See Coffee page 4

Competitive Cooking Club members, Laci Lanclos (left) and Laura Faber observe with Club Adviser, Chef Kyle Richardson, as Chef Paul Bringas (right) demonstrates an Escoffier style fabrication of a chicken, which will be part of an upcoming competition. *Photo by Don Bolger*

EDITORIAL

Black Friday's invasion of Thanksgiving

This Thanksgiving, more consumers than ever will be cutting out early from their family gatherings and dinners so they can take advantage of Thanksgiving Day shopping deals. It's a major departure from the shopping environment just 10 years ago, when the idea of shopping on a major holiday like Thanksgiving was a foreign concept.

All this, and more, has changed however.

In a recent article by *Time Magazine*, our generation, the Millennials, are to blame for stores being open for shopping on Thanksgiving, citing surveys that show the overwhelming support for stores to be open on the holiday come from our demographic.

Time reasons that Millennials, as opposed to older generations, have lived their lives under an atmosphere of hyper-consumerism where shopping is available 24/7 thanks to the internet.

Thus, in the last several years, the number of stores open for shopping on Turkey Day has risen along with the hours of operation.

Walmart, Target, Sports Authority and Best Buy will all be open on Thanksgiving and promise doorbustin' values strategically set during specific time frames, say between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., for instance.

Is it not enough that these stores will open for business at a mind-numbing 6 a.m. the following day? No, it probably is not.

The fact is that while Millennials do seem more inclined to shop at least part of Thanksgiving Day, and sometimes all-day on Black Friday, retailers have been struggling to combat internet purchasing, which has "strangled" sales in their physical locations.

Retailers have tried creative ways to combat this. For example, if you want a specific pair of shoes but cannot find the pair in your size, a Sports Authority associate will gladly walk you through the process of ordering the pair online in a strategically placed in-store kiosk.

While this is a task one can easily do for him or herself, Sports Authority is countering that customer's likely unwillingness to follow up with the purchase at home.

Thus, the company arranges the online sale for the customer.

Consumers who object to *Thanksgiving Day shopping* argue that the holiday is meant to spend time with one's family and friends, not engage in hyper-consumerism at the local Walmart.

"I don't think that's right," said JJC student, Yesenia Villagomez, who also said that Thanksgiving was a time for family and friends and added that Black Friday shopping was a "waste of time."

But the biggest burden is not shouldered by mom and her uneaten pumpkin pie, it's shouldered by the retail workers who already have to sacrifice a tremendous amount of extra time around the holidays on the job.

Now they find themselves not only working all day on Black Friday, but also the day before, when in their, and pretty much everyone else's minds, they should be home with family.

Pushback has come not only from consumers, but also from the industry itself. A number of retailers, such as Sam's Club, T.J. Maxx, and Home Depot, are defiantly choosing not to open on Thanksgiving.

These companies choose to do this specifically so they can promote the fact that they are not open on Thanksgiving, and therefore are not ruining the holiday for consumers or their workers.

A spokesperson for TJX, which runs retail brands such as Marshall's and T.J. Maxx, recently told ThinkProgress, "We consider ourselves an Associate-friendly Company, and, we are pleased to give our Associates the time to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends."

Charming sentiment. But it's one that also inspires cynicism and doubt, particularly in the *Blazer*.

Are retailers really that concerned about their associates? If they are that concerned and thoughtful, how about paying them a livable wage instead?

It seems more likely that retail workers would readily jump at the opportunity to work on a holiday if their wages matched the level of work they actually do. Because as it stands, their work and compensation do not match.

But cynicism aside, it is fair to say with confidence that the employees of these stores certainly appreciate the holiday off.

Because each of them know that at 6 a.m. the next day, all hands will be on deck to deal with the massive influx of Black Friday shoppers.

So next time you go shopping on Thanksgiving or Black Friday, think twice about the unreasonable burden placed on retail employees.

Instead, settle in for a day of family, football, mom's pumpkin pie and the guaranteed comatose feeling you will likely experience the next day from weighing five pounds more.

Question of the issue:
What is your favorite or least favorite part about Thanksgiving and Black Friday?

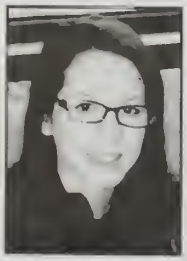
Mark Denning

"The best part is Black Friday. I think that it's fun. It's a tradition of ours. We go out with friends and family. My least favorite part is gaining all that weight on Thanksgiving."

Savannah Marshall

"My favorite part about Thanksgiving is getting together with my extended family. I do Black Friday shopping, usually every year."

Her favorite shopping location? "Everywhere."



Yesenia Villagomez

"Black Friday is my least favorite part. I think it's a waste of time. Now they're doing Black Friday specials on Thursday for Thanksgiving. I don't think that's right. My favorite part is the food obviously."

John Shellhammer

"Probably seeing my family is my most favorite part. We don't go out on Black Friday."

BLAZER STAFF

Richard Maska
Co-Editor

Alex Fargue
Co-Editor

Brittney Andersen
Production Manager

Sarah Lake
Advertising Manager

Jami Shawmeker
Photo Editor

Elias Albert
Copy Editor

Joel Roza
Sports Editor

Josh Fowler
Photographer

Staff Writers:
Brandy Andersen, Tim Bunce, Olivia Bergagna, Fossette Anderson, Jordan Baker, Don Bolger.

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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Contact information:

Blazer
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431

Phone number:
815-280-2313

Student trustee profile

Herrera paves his own path to success

BY RICHARD MASKA
Co-editor

Brian Herrera is one of the student faces of the school. He is the student body's trustee to the JJC Board of Trustees, and was formerly the president of the college's most popular club, Latinos Unidos. Around campus he is one of the most well-known and recognizable figures at JJC.

But when it came time to take drivers education class in his sophomore year at Lockport Township High School, Herrera found out that he couldn't attend because he needed a Social Security number and did not have one.

That's when he found out, at the age of 15, that he was an undocumented immigrant. In 1995 his parents brought Herrera to America from Mexico when he was only two years old and was never told by his parents that he was not a citizen.

Combined with his recent move from his childhood home in Chicago, Herrera was in the midst of a dark phase of his life.

Fast forward to last spring, and Herrera is speaking at a Latino Empowerment Conference held at JJC in front of over 200 high school students.

"I asked everybody what they carry in their book bag," which were items like books, notepads and calculators.

Then he went on to explain that when he was in high school, "What I carried was hate, no support, pain, just all this negativity in my book bag," said Herrera, "and I told them how I learned to carry positive and motivating things and how that's how I got to be where I'm at."

Afterwards students wanted autographs, pictures and a chance to meet him, but for Herrera, the most special part of the experience was being able to relate to them.

"For them to say, 'hey that's me, a minority, a Latino. That could be me.' That's what I want to do, I want to make a difference in people's lives."

Herrera has been attending JJC since 2012 and is slated to graduate in the spring of 2015 As student trustee, he acts as the liaison between the students and the real power brokers at the college's Board of Trustees.

"I present to the board about what's going on in student life and what activities are going on," this includes speaking about club and student government activities around campus.

Pam Dilday, the director for the Office of Student activities, is pleased with the job Herrera has done as trustee, "I think his strength is in communicating with the various clubs and the students," said Dilday.

"I think he represents the students well, and I think his reports to the Board are spot on."

Always thinking proactively, Herrera is using his position as student trustee to create lasting changes at JJC.

Currently he is collaborating with Dr. Yolanda Isaacs, the vice president of student development, to form an after school program where high school students in disadvantaged circumstances can come to JJC to meet with mentors and be engaged in a positive environment.

"JJC has a commitment to working with our high school partners to prepare students for postsecondary education," said Isaacs of the proposal.

"For someone who's confused and doesn't know what to do, this is a great opportunity to expand their horizon and see all these opportunities that JJC offers," said Herrera.

Herrera is also working with various clubs on campus and student government to create a new scholarship for those who meet certain academic standards and who have done positive work for the community, or whose major will allow them to positively impact the community.

For Herrera, creating this scholarship will be the biggest accomplishment he could achieve while at JJC.

"I feel like as a trustee that would be a great opportunity for the whole student body and would help promote involvement. I want to give back to them."

Having these aspirations of helping students and the community around them represent a far-cry from the priorities he had just a few years ago.

"With the lifestyle I could have lived, it only had two routes: either going to jail or ending up under a tombstone."

A BRUSH WITH DANGER

The lifestyle Herrera was able to avoid was one of close association with the gang-life around his childhood home in Rogers Park, Chicago.

"To me, they (gang members) had respect, they had money. I didn't know anyone with a college degree. That was barely heard of I would always hang out with them because my best friend was a gang member."

Herrera says his tenuous relationship with his parents and his desire for their approval helped drive him away from home and into the streets.

"My parents bought my love with money. They gave me anything I wanted. But that's not what I wanted. I wanted their support. They didn't go for my communion, my spiritual retreat, my soccer games, school events."

The only event Herrera can remember his parents attending was his eighth grade graduation.

Though he describes his relationship with gangs as one of "family," Herrera insists that he was never pressured into joining and that "I was never an official gang member."

Experiencing this brush with danger, combined with later learning of his citizenship status, has hardened Herrera's resolve beyond that of most students his age.

"That's why I feel like I grew up never having fear because I feel like I've been through it all, it didn't matter."

"With the lifestyle I could have lived, it only had two routes: either going to jail or ending up under a tombstone." --Herrera on growing up in Chicago

Photo by Richard Maska

JJC's student trustee, Brian Herrera, has overcome adversity both personally and professionaly throughout his life.

During his last few years in Chicago, Herrera said that crime in his neighborhood was progressively becoming more frequent Then his life was changed forever when a friend in the building he lived in was killed

"I knew him, and I knew who killed him."

Herrera and his friends had aspirations of retaliation against who he thought the killer was. Afraid that this might have sent Herrera and his friends down a violent path, within days Herrera's father had the family relocated out of the city.

He felt alone, "We moved to Lockport on my birthday," Herrera said with a pause, "It sucked."

PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Though he was able to get a Social Security number, a work permit, and finally, a drivers license through DACA, (Deferred Action for Early Child Arrivals), a federal program for undocumented immigrants brought into the country before the age of 16, Herrera did not plan on attending college after high school.

"I thought I'd be wasting my time, I didn't know what I wanted to do, and none of my close friends were going so why should I go?"

His mother thought otherwise and signed him up without him even knowing.

Once enrolled, Herrera got involved with Latinos Unidos and the Peer Mentor Program; two institutions that would affect him greatly.

His mentor Ana Marchan, a former student, helped guide Herrera through the college experience, and opened him up to opportunities in clubs and scholarships.

Through his involvement with Latinos Unidos, Herrera quickly became the club's president, where he said his main goal was to be known in his community. Under his leadership, the club engaged in a multitude of volunteer work, including working for an organization called Family Focus, which helps immigrant families with the citizenship process, and protesting the construction of an immigrant prison.

"On campus, my goal was to let Latino culture be known. Let them know who we are and what our culture is about."

The club collaborates with Black Student Union leaders and other clubs and "talks about issues, about what's going on in the world and what effects our community."

To Herrera, involvement with Latinos Unidos is an experience that goes beyond campus life. "I call it a family. We all hang out outside of school, and I don't see that in any other club."

"It's a very difficult task. And it's very difficult because I have to work with Student Government with everything I do and they weren't always as cultural or diverse."

DIFFICULTIES WITH STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Herrera feels that too often student government gears itself towards a 'business as usual' attitude instead of seeking more creative ways to be more impactful to the student body.

"I felt like they didn't really care, they never asked us (Latinos Unidos) to collaborate with events. When I did get involved with them I wanted to make it more for all students."

Before he became involved with student government as a representative-at-large, Herrera said he felt the group lacked diversity and was made up of primarily Phi Theta Kappa members.

"I really wanted to do things outside the box, I want to impact people I want to impact students and I don't feel like that's what student government wants. That's not in their mission."

Dilday, who acts as a staff advisor to student government, said that this kind of disconnect between student government and the student trustee is not uncommon.

"They're not always on the same page, and that's typical. The student trustee usually comes in with ideas on what they want to accomplish as the student trustee," said Dilday, "And that's not always the same thing that student government wants to focus on."

Nevertheless, while Herrera supports and attends most student government meetings, he admits that, "Sometimes I feel challenged when I work with student government."

ON AND ONWARD

Despite this, Herrera has worked to build close relationships with the students and help those who face disadvantages or lack support. This desire is what inspired Herrera to begin studying political science in his pursuit of becoming a lawyer.

From working in the community with Latinos Unidos and the Psychology Club, Herrera began to see how impactful he can be towards helping people. "I said to myself, I want to do

See Herrera page 8

Exploration from page 1

colleges, and those who are not attending school right now.

JJC had tables for every program offered here, including criminal justice, agriculture and horticultural, the library, English/world Language department, and career services.

This variety of departments helped students get a feel for what a program or area of study will be like, and gave them the facts and knowledge needed to make a choice on what they would like to study.

Along with programs available at JJC, many advisors from four year schools were available for students to talk to as well.

This gave students a chance to talk with representatives about possible transfers and what kind of programs they offer.

Aseret Gonzalez, a counselor from Eastern Illinois University, gave input about what she thinks having transfer schools at the Major Explomtion Fair does to benefit the students.

"Ultimately I think it allows the students to get a face and a name to the school. Get acclimated to what they need to do here at JJC to make sure it transitions very smooth," said Gonzalez.

"And I know this is also a good time that if they don't quite know what they want to study, they can hear it from the university stand point of what they could be doing now."

The success of the fair stems largely from over a year² of planning hy a committee made up of JJC's Career Services, Counseling, Admissions, the Office of Student Activities, and Phi Theta Kappa.

Bridgett Larkin-Beene – the Director of Career Services – was a member of this planning committee as a co-chair.

"We do a lot of job fairs in career services, so we needed students to have the same opportunity as they would at a job fair," states Larkin.

"Yon need to be able to walk around and talk to people. Learn about wage and salary information. Learn about what kind of jobs you can get with that degree and if you need to transfer to a four-year school, or cun I just work."

This committee came up with the details and creative ideas to run this fair and keep it interesting. By looking and communicating with other community colleges, the committee built upon smaller events the college has staged to make the event unique onto itself.

This is evident in the very popular photo booth where students could dress up as their career.

Another major supporter of this event was the contribution of the Perkins Grant by Mr. Linden who is the Dean of Career and Technical Education.

"It allows the students to get a face and a name to the school," said Aseret Gonzalez of Eastern Illinois University.

With the huge masses of people coming into the fair, there were volunteers from many different clubs and organizations that helped steady the flow of people coming and going.

These volunteers included students from Emerging Leaders, Phi Theta Kappa, Career Services Student workings, and the Psych club.

All of these volunteers contributed immensely to the success of this event.

As a result of this fair, Career Services and counseling was overflowing with students to ask more questions about what they should be doing about their potential career path.

This was the main goal that this fair was trying to accomplish. To help students figure out what they are passionate about, what they could do with their lives, and then motivate them to take the first step towards it.

This is where career services helps our students further by helping them choose a major, helping them get experience in their field, and finding them a job.

Bridget Larkin-Beene, the director for Career Services, said the Career Services office is strategically places right next to the doors as you walk in the A-building.

This way, the first thing that students go to in order to plan their degree, and the last thing they go to after they graduate to find work.

On average about 100 students come in per semester in order to have assistance finding internships.

This institution-wide initiative in making the fair happen was a major achievement.

Potentially, the fair helped hundreds of students decide on what they want to do as a career and understand where they would need to start.

Hopefully this great success with be the starting place for many more Major Exploration Fairs to come.

Coffee from page 1

department."

Officer Melvin Cornelius, the Watch Commander of the JJC police department, also shared some insight on what barriers and misconceptions that exists between students and police officers as well.

With the latest stories about police brutality in the media, many students have issues trusting police, and Cornelius wanted to express that "You can't stereotype all police officers because of what one police officer did wrong."

He went to explain that, "There are a smaller amount of police officers who are corrupt, but the larger majority of police officers are good police officers who want to help people."

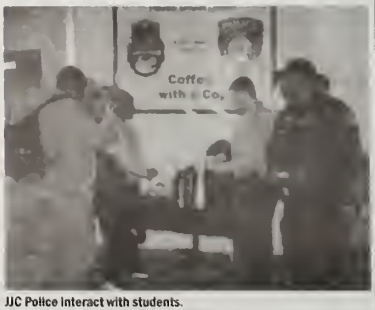
Cornelius also noted what other programs that the department does such as self-defense classes. He also noted that this event was also setup so students can ask questions such as how to report a crime and to express any concerns that they had.

They also wanted to get students the ability to share ideas that they may have. One student told Cornelius that the school should have a K-9 unit.

Graves said he organized this particular event because "It makes police officers approachable to students, and there's no better way to get to know someone than over a cup of coffee."

Graves also commented that they hope to do this event at least once every semester, and then do one at night as well to be able to reach out to the night time students who are not on campus during the day.

Overall Graves thought the event went well and felt that the event allowed campus police to be more available to students as well as educate students about the services that the police department offers.



JJC Police Interact with students.

Photo courtesy of the JJC Police Department

Club from page 1

because I want to be at the level to compete."

Lanclos, who recently landed a job at Little Goat Diner in Chicago, said the competitions can be intense as students showcase the skills they've learned, which may have them fileting a fish or chicken and preparing it for a broth.

"The precision knife cuts and organizational skills we learn at JJC are preparing us to work in the food industry right away," she said.

"We always harvest a bunch of superstars," said Kyle Richardson, club adviser.

The Competitive Cooking Club will perform at the state level in early 2015. The regional title is up for grabs in Little Rock, Ark., in March, and the American Culinary Federation national championship is in Orlando, Fla., in July.

Teams of students will demonstrate the skills they've learned to prepare specified dishes which may include a three course meal.

JJC chefs have earned two national championships and three regional awards since 2000.

To know more about the Competitive Cooking Club, log on to jjc.edu, click "Campus Life" and go to the "Clubs" link.

Holiday haunts

Clubs give spirited Halloween showcase

BY JAMI SHAWMEKER
Photo editor

JJC's clubs took on a frightful motif as representatives from several organizations took part in the annual club showcase on the Center Bridge during Halloween day. Amy Sims, the coordinator of student activities and holistic wellness, said that the showcase takes place every year.

"It's a day just sort of dedicated to club events. This year it happened to fall on Halloween so it worked out well," Sims said.

There was a variety of events going on every part of the bridge. Some of the clubs that came out to partake in this showcase including AWEN, a club celebrating the Wiccan beliefs and the spirit of the earth, promoted Tarot card and aura readings, apple telling, and also hosted a bake sale.

The Here's Your Sign club, the American Sign Language club, was also present and put on a death-skit performance. The Veterans Alliance club had a station for zombie-themed Nerf gun fights.

"It's going to be interesting to see all the clubs come together," said a member of Here's Your Sign club, Jacara White, who was interested in seeing her club's collaboration with the Comedy club before the event got started.

Sims said organizing the event is a matter of reaching out the college's clubs to see which ones are willing to participate, determine what activities the club plans to do, and figure out what supplies are needed.

This process is handled exclusively by Sims.

"I do all the setup, schedule the media request, and get everything else setup for them, and (finally) I expect them to all show up and do what they told me they would."

When asked what her favorite part of the showcase event was, Sims responded that, "I like to see everyone come together, and be a part of the community. Especially with my clubs, I like when they're able to be visible."

In promoting their Dia De Los Muertos dance later that evening, Latinos Unidos featured artists face painting willing students, and dance demonstrations.

The International Student Club held the costume contest, and finally the Wolf Pack Production film club set up a green screen allowing students the chance to be filmed in a variety of settings.

The Here's Your Sign club held the main stage for a time during the event, teaching students how to use sign language.

Not only was White ready to participate in the event for her club, but like many others she was dressed in full costume, as ironically enough a name-tagged professor.

White said her favorite part of Halloween is seeing the kids dressed up on Halloween, passing out candy, and seeing them all lite up on Halloween.

"I dressed up because I feel like I'm a good positive role model in their lives."

White was unabashed about dressing up in full costume for Halloween at her age, "I think you can always dress up and not afraid to be embarrassed because Halloween is a time to be different and be who you're not supposed to be."

The event was a fun and unique environment for JJC students. People in homemade costumes from cherished childhood books and movies, proudly circulated around the bridge and others donned store bought costumes depicting characters from movies such as "The Incredibles."

Some just wore hats and ears so they could still feel like part of the event, and all-in-all it was a spook-tacular Halloween on the JJC campus.

Jacara White, in a colorfully confusing costume (trust us), represented the Here's Your Sign club at JJC's club showcase on Oct. 31. *Photo by Jami Shawmeker*

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Police report

Failure to yield

Kaitlyn Ijernagel, Plainfield, was issued a citation on Oct. 17 after police say Ijernagel failed to yield at an intersection in South Lot 7, causing an accident.

Physical altercation

JJC Police issued a notice of trespass for Centennial Commons to Jordan Hilton, Shorewood, on Oct. 20, for his involvement in a fight with another JJC student.

Police said both parties wished to remain friends and both signed complaint refusal forms for the incident.

Threatening statements about instructor

Katherine Morris, Joliet, was issued a notice of trespass to all JJC properties on Oct 21 after police say Morris made threatening statements about an instructor.

Notice of trespass

JJC Police issued a notice of trespass to Jair Sosa, Downers Grove on Oct. 27.

JJC Police say Sosa got involved with a physical altercation with a JJC student on South Lot 3.

According to police, Sosa was attempting to reconcile with his ex-girlfriend and the other subject tried to defend her.

Filing false police report

JJC Police arrested Angelique Harris, Joliet, on Nov. 3 after police say Harris filed a false police report after she reported her vehicle being struck while it was park in South Lot 3.

Harris is due at the Will County Courthouse on Dec. 11.

Suspended liscence

Timothy Jones, Homer Glen, was arrested and issued a citation on Nov. 4 after police said Jones was driving while his license was suspended.

Jones is due at the Will County Courthouse on Dec. 10.

JJC staff and students browse the selection during the Oct. 28-29 book fair.

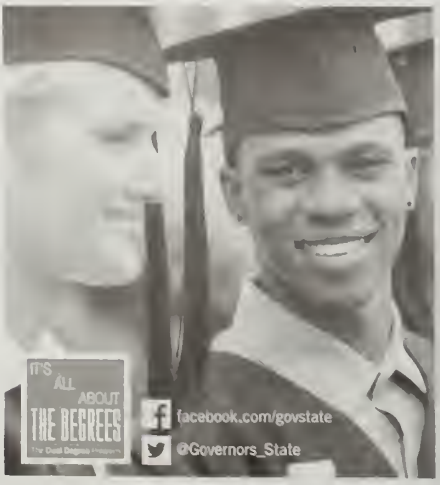
JJC student Tiffany Rose and James Griese of Wildcards of Comedy, perform at the Oct. 30 Comedy Club show.

JJC through

JJC library clerk, Coral Borg, hosts an informational and advisory session for the NoNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) kick off on Nov. 1. In addition to being a clerk at the JJC library, Borg has been a writer for 12 years.

Photos by Josh Fowler

Keanna Campbell, 12, finishes a spike during the Wolves three-set loss to Madison College in the Region IV Semifinal.



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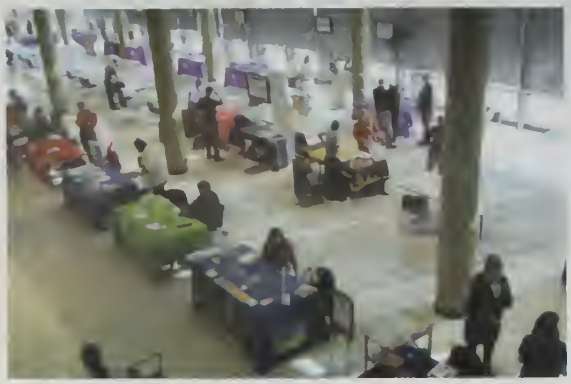

An overhead look at JJC's first Major Exploration Fair on Nov. 5.

Students get into the college's Halloween festivities. Brett Hinds, left, as Ron Burgundy from "Anchorman," Evan Cook, as Burt Chimney Sweep and Hope Taylor as Mary Poppins.

a snapshot

Photos by Jami Shawmeker

The Wolf Pack Productions Video Club at the college's club showcase, allowed students to be filmed in a variety of exotic settings.

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Up and coming hot-spots for wings

BY TIM BUNCE

Staff writer

Outside of possibly bacon, is there anything better than wings? Exactly. I found two places that have only two things in common. The first, and probably the obvious answer, is awesome wings. The second is both places have been open for only about four months.

Where do we find these places? Well, the first is not Hooters, and the other is not Buffalo Wild Wings. So we will say downtown Plainfield and Crest Hill are the homes of these new joints. Crest Hill is being represented by a place called 12 Handles. Plainfield's representation is Shrimp Bar N' Grill.

12 Handles, located at 1827 Knapp Road, in Crest Hill has been open four months now. This place has a pretty big menu loaded with wings, appetizers, salads, sandwiches, pizza and a big variety of burgers. That is right. If you look at the menu, you will see the wings are in their own category outside of the appetizers.

Shrimp Bar N' Grill, located at 24136 Lockport St., in Plainfield, has also has been open for four months now. This restaurant is the baby brother to Shrimp Barn in Minooka, a restaurant I reviewed last semester for the Blazer. It is the same owner, similar but less formal menu and completely different outlook and style.

Since we're focusing more on wings, let's get into it. The Shrimp Bar has huge wings and three flavors. These flavors include buffalo, Louisiana and barbecue. Contrast that with 12 handles, which has many flavors like the barbecue, mild, hot, spicy garlic, Caribbean jerk and teriyaki. They also have big wings.

Sounds like everywhere else right? How are these places different? Despite less flavor options, Shrimp Bar is different because they fry their wings naked. For those wondering, naked wings means that they are not floured or battered, before being fried. 12 Handles differs in that they have more flavors that are a lot less common, such as, exotic flavors include a Kentucky bourbon, honey-sriracha, chipotle peach and a horseradish peppercorn.

Shrimp Bar N' Grill, as previously mentioned, is a spinoff of Shrimp Barn. Between the two places, owner Rob Degan, is focusing on making a label for his places. Degan's plan behind his unique style is trying to support the community and have the community support him.

"I like my place in Minooka, I want you to come in as a customer and leave as family," said Degan. Although this place has more bar atmosphere than the other one, Degan stresses the importance that it is still very family friendly.

"I want to bring back the family orientated style of restaurant," Degan said. A lot of people tend to think of seafood restaurants as special occasions. "I want to give good food at a low price. This is an everyday restaurant, not just specialty seafood," Degan added.

The location of this restaurant in downtown Plainfield started out as a home, then was converted into the first health department in Plainfield. Afterwards it was a couple other restaurants before Degan bought it. It is also the only restaurant in the downtown strip that has its own parking lot off the street. Shrimp Bar N' Grill offers carryout, free Wi-Fi, and online ordering.

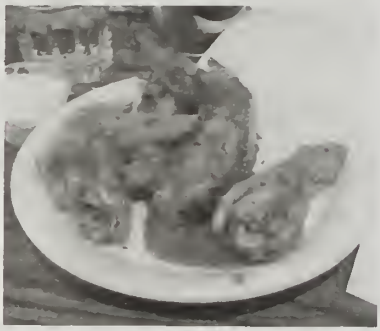
12 Handles is a unique place in itself. This is the first bar for owner, Nick Aposto, who mentioned the possibility of another one in the future, but he wants to see how this one goes first. The idea for 12 Handles came from a restaurant in Chicago's Avondale neighborhood, called Kuma's Corner. It is not necessarily the head-banger music that makes them similar, but the support of local beverage masters.

12 Handles is loaded with a variety of craft beers, coming from mostly local brewers. "We have over 100 different beers. That is quite a variety," Apsoto said. If you want good wings, or a good burger and good beer, you should definitely check this place out.

Knapp Road is located just north of the corner of Larken Ave. and Route 30. 12 Handles is in the process of re-vamping their website. Once this is completed, they will have online ordering. They do offer free Wi-Fi and a carryout option. Delivery is also a possible option in the future.

Can I compare these two places the way I normally do? No. They are too different from each other to go head to head.

However, both places offer their share of unique cuisine and excellent service. To top it off, both place offer amazing wings. I recommend definitely giving both Shrimp Bar N' Grill and 12 Handles a go, even if wings aren't your thing. They should be. However, if not, both places have amazing menus outside the wings.



Simple and refined, these Buffalo-style wings are a non-seafood staple at Shrimp Bar n Grill.

Wings Kentucky Bourbon style, a flavor which is one of the many instances of creative selections from 12 Handles.

Photos by Tim Bunce

Herrera from page 3

something where I could give back to the community."

Herrera's long term goals are to get into law school and target immigration and family matters so he can, "Find ways to help out those in need. That way I feel like I can make a big impact."

Hererra wants to go to Governors State College, but his ambitions may be hampered by financial constraints. He cannot apply for government or private loans and must pay for college by scholarship or completely out of pocket.

"It doesn't matter, I'm going to get where I want to go. I've been through it all and nothing will stop me," Herrem says, "One thing that Ana Marchan said is that I don't need a document saying I can work, or this or that, I can still do it. I can get it done, I can be successful."

Issacs is optimistic about Herrera's chances. "Due to Brian's adversity throughout life, he has learned how to apply his intellectual, problem-solving skills, and interpersonal communication skills to bring about sound resolutions personally and professionally," said Isaacs via an email interview.

"What's stopping me from being what I want to be?" Herrera asked hypothetically, "I have arms, I have legs, I'm healthy, I'm smart and I work hard. There's no reason I can't accomplish something."

"And that's why I'm where I'm at right now, for me it's a blessing."

For Herrera, his sights are set on graduating JJC in the spring.

"I dream about walking that stage. Because I'm first generation and I don't know anyone in my family who has a degree or anything, so that's why I'm trying to push ahead and do well."

One of Herrera's favorite quotes is "nothing ventured, nothing gained." While at JJC, Herrera has gained notoriety, lasting friendships, and soon, will gain an education.

All of this would have been impossible without staking his future on the faith he has in himself, and his ability to push down the barriers that would have stopped so many others

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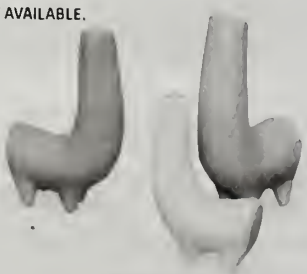

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Jordan's Jukebox

Must-have albums you need to hear

BY JORDAN BAKER

Staff writer

I should preface this first mini-review by saying that I might be a tad biased. Run the Jewels is a hip-hop duo featuring the rappers Killer Mike and El-P, and last year they released a self-titled album that is now in my top ten of all time. Their music captures everything I love the most about hip-hop; raw aggression, complex and clever lyricism, and immaculate production that's every bit as intense as it is beautiful. *Run the Jewels 2* is their most recent project, and it simply capitalizes on everything that the first album did right. The beats are just as layered and heavy, and their lyrics are meaner and smarter with a smattering of social and political commentary as well as their incredible trash-talking.

Their sound certainly hasn't changed much; they're still the futuristic New York boom-bap with a southern flavor that the first record provided. It's just that Run the Jewels has stepped their game up in a way that words will not and cannot do justice. To put it bluntly...this goes hard. Download it today.

This next record is the most recent release from the Philadelphia post-punk band, The Restorations, entitled *LP3*. While their music does have a great amount of shoegaze and post-punk characteristics (like the dissonant, reverb-soaked guitar leads and climactic build-ups), Restorations take a lot of influence from many other rock subgenres. The anthemic quality of the vocal melodies and instrumentation throughout remind of more accessible alternative rock bands, like The Gaslight Anthem or even rock legend Bruce Springsteen.

There are some songs that have much more of a punk attitude, then there are tracks like "It's Not" which feature heavy, hard rock riffs and even a shredding guitar solo. It's almost unfair to try to label Restorations because they combine so many different influences in their songwriting to create a sound that's quite refreshing, if not completely original. It's atmospheric, melodic, messy, and definitely worth checking out.

Up next, we have the fourth record from the California hardcore band, The Ghost Inside. This album, *Dear Youth*, embodies the modern metallic hardcore sound. Occasional melodies harmonize with mid-ranged screams and slightly angst-driven lyrics combined with heavy mosh-inducing breakdowns and traditional metalcore riffs with a slight thrash influence.

In this album, The Ghost Inside are not attempting to progress there sound as a band, that much is clear. And while many would see that as a detriment, I think they are simply perfecting the sound that they've spent their career so far playing rather than an attempt at expanding their sound detrimentally.

This album is arguably their tightest performance together as a band. As predictable as it may be, it delivers what their fans want; something fun and energetic that they can go crazy to.

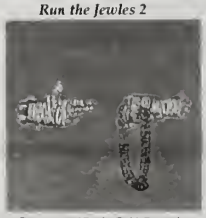
Finally, the industrial/alternative rock/gothic pop band The Birthday Massacre, have released their sixth album, *Superstition*.

This is another band that doesn't deviate much from their signature sound. They've always had a very spacey atmosphere due to their electronic-tinged instrumentation and "dreamy" female vocals. All the while, the band maintains a tedious balance on a thin line between pop and rock. The Birthday Massacre are just as similar to a pop-punk band like Tonight Alive, as they are to a more experimental electronic act like Purity Ring.

On this particular release, they take a bit of a step away from their former commercial accessibility since this is likely their most aggressive record since their earlier material which was more gothic and abrasive. However, that doesn't make the vocal melodies any less catchy and cheerful, nor does it mean they've taken any liberties in their songwriting.

The Birthday Massacre have been tweaking their sound ever so slightly with every album they release, and its clear that they've gotten to the point where they found exactly what works.

Run the Jewles 2



Courtesy of Fools Gold Records

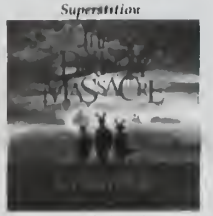
IP3

Side One Dummy Records

Dear Youth

Epitaph Records

Superstition



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Indie game terrifies

BY FOSSETTI ANDERSON

Staff Writer

Imagine, you just got a brand new job, it pays fairly decent, and all you have to do is take a night watch at some family fun pizza place called Freddy Fazbear's Pizza.

Seems simple enough, and you might even get have some free pizza, except that there might be a bit of a problem. You might get killed by the characters there.

Who would dare take this job? No one in hope for it is just a game. Enter, "Five Nights at Freddy's."

You take the rule of the night guard who is hired to protect the building from harm. When in actuality the place is too cheap to hire a mechanic and hired you to make sure nothing goes wrong with the power), while trying to protect yourself from the death of the walking animatronics (Freddy and his friends) from stuffing you into a wired suit.

The only thing to protect you is a security camera, lights, and two doors and a very limited supply of power.

You have to survive six grueling hours of nightmarish terror, never knowing if the animatrons are going to get you soon or not. The ever-present challenge of the game is managing the power supply, as running out means no light to track to animatrons, the inability to shut doors, and certain death.

Five nights at Freddy's has already top the charts at least once since its release. With its unique gameplay and captivating characters and let's not forget those jump scares, this game can keep you entertained for hours.

It's so popular that the creator, Scott Cawthon is already working on the sequel and has announced that he will be releasing a demo for all of you to try, and will be available by Nov. 11 2014.

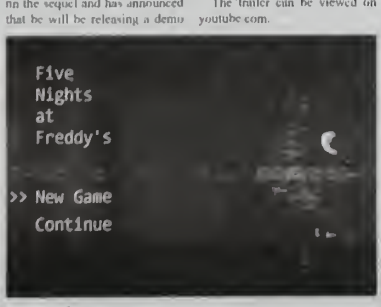
The demo will include the first two nights of the game for free and is available to download via Steam.

Hopefully this sequel will be as good as the original and already the creator has stated that there will be one major difference...new gameplay and no doors!

"Five Nights at Freddy's" can be played in the Cyber cafe (With a steam account).

The demo download can be found at nightdb.com/games/.

The trailer can be viewed on youtube.com.



Courtesy of steam.com

JJC Outdoor Outlook

Will County area fishing report

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We advocate catch and release and sustainable hunting and fishing that promotes a healthy ecosystem for generations to come.

Fall trout season

The fall trout season opened up on Oct. 18. Lakes and rivers across Illinois are annually stocked with trout, offering anglers a chance to cash in on a bonanza of action. Wax worms, small minnows, spinners, and trout baits have all been reported to work well at catching them. The daily bag is five fish; anglers over 16 years of age need a license and an inland trout stamp to keep any.

Nearby locations for stocked trout

Cook County — Axehead Lake, Cook County Forest Preserve District

Cook County — Wolf Lake at William W. Powers State Recreation Area, Chicago

Cook County — Green Lake, Cook County Forest Preserve District

Cook County — Belleau Lake, Cook County Forest Preserve District

Cook County — Horsetail Lake, Cook County Forest Preserve District

Kankakee County — Bird Park Quarry, Kankakee

Cook County — Busse Woods North Lake

Will County — Lake Strini at Conservation Park, Romeoville

Will County — Van Horn Woods, Plainfield

Area Lakes

Several reports indicate a pick-up in crappie angling as the ice-out begins. Attack with minnows, jigs and small spinners.

Some lakes sure to be good producers are Saganashkee Slough,. Shabbona Lake, and Joliet's Rock Run Rookery.

There also has been encouraging signs that the largemouth are not ready to pack it in just yet.

Try rattletraps in mid-column areas above weeds for best success.

Area Rivers

Kankakee River: There are some big walleye to be had out on the Kankakee. Recently, one measuring just over 29 inches was caught in the Wilmington area.

Try Rapala Husky jerk baits, X-Raps, and other crankbaits for in minnow color for best success.

Hunting

The following species are open for hunting:

Deer: Firearm only: Nov. 21 through Nov. 23 and again Dec. 4 through Dec. 7.

Rabbit: Now until Feb. 15

Squirrel: Now until Feb. 15, closed Nov. 21 through Nov. 23 and Dec 4 through 7 due to firearm deer season.

Turkey: Archery only: Now until Jan. 18 .

Blazer staff writer, Don Bolger, with a largemouth caught on the Potomac River near Alexandria, Va.

Photo courtesy of Don Bolger

Volleyball

Wolves fall short to Madison in semifinal

BYELIAS ALBERT

Copy editor

The Lady Wolves fell short, three sets to none, to Madison College in the Region IV Semi-Final. The final scores read 25-12, 25-23 and 25-17.

They were coming off of a dominating victory over Milwaukee Area Technical College in the Region IV Quarterfinals.

The Lady Wolves fall to 14-19 to end the season, which includes a 6-6 record within the North Central Community College Conference. They finish in fourth-place in the conference for the second-straight season.

On the season, previous to the Region IV tournament, head coach Lakisha Cameron said, "It was not quite the season that I wanted. Not really what I was expecting to see."

However, Cameron always saw plenty of positives. "Skill wise, it's there," said Cameron. "I think that since we're young, they seem to emotionally detach themselves from each other. We have to work on our maturity here moving forward."

Cameron saw the upcoming spring season as an opportunity for her team to improve. "That's when we'll get our players back into a competitive mindset and give the new players chance to adjust to the game," said Cameron.

To wrap it all up, Cameron called the 2014 season, and everything that came along with it, an experience.

"We went through a lot and learned a lot, but it was a great experience."

BriHanna Sawin leans into this spike during the Wolves three-set loss to Madison College in the Region IV Semifinal.

Photo by Josh Fowler

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We'll get the facts out!

Womens basketball

Lady Wolves overcome early obstacles

By Elias Albert
Copy editor

After the Lady Wolves' 57-51 loss to Black Hawk College-East on Nov. 6, sophomore guard Bernasia Fox made a bold statement about her team's immediate future.

"I honestly don't see us losing to anyone else," Fox stated.

Fox complimented the Black Hawk East squad by saying, "they're a strong team," but confidence in the Lady Wolves runs much higher.

Head coach Shaun Sanderson enjoys Fox's confidence, as well as the rest of his team's.

"That's the mentality we should have every time we take the floor," he said.

Three games into the season, the Lady Wolves have stepped over numerous obstacles thrown their way. The early difficulty aside, the team is pulling together and thriving.

Despite the early obstacles, the Lady Wolves have accepted the challenge and have begun the season with a 2-1 record.

One of these early difficulties is that the team is starting the season with four road games. However, Sanderson actually prefers to play on the road.

"When you're at home, there's a lot of distractions," said Sanderson. "When you're on campus there's a lot of things to make your mind wander."

In addition to the inconvenience of proximity, the Lady Wolves have had to perform with lots of youth and inexperience. "Having such a young team means that we'll have some growing pains," said Sanderson.

Sanderson alluded to these growing pains addressing the adjustments that members of his young roster need to make.

He put emphasis on the shot clock for one, saying that the new players need to become more accustomed to the college speed.

Sanderson also spoke on his team's strategy, stating that "We've had some moments that we need to grow out of. Players will reach for a steal, miss, and give the opponent an advantage. We need to work on that."

That said, Sanderson is pleased with his team's work so far.

"I think it's going well," he said, who pointed out the strong play out of Mayes, calling her a "gamer."

Worth highlighting in the early going of the season is the team's season-opening overtime win over Governors State.

The Lady Wolves fell behind by double digits but found a way to force overtime and eventually pull off a 71-69 victory.

The Lady Wolves would once again be on the winning end of things in another come-from-behind win, this time over Prairie State.

When it comes to players that Sanderson feels have excelled so far, he pointed out freshman guard Naomi Mayes, who went to high school in the Joliet area.

"She's been phenomenal," said Sanderson. "She's been consistent and good since the preseason."

According to Sanderson, Mayes should make her way into the starting lineup.

Fox shared more feelings on the season so far. "I think we're doing alright," she said.

"We're still learning how to play together, but we'll get there."

The Lady Wolves will not play a game at home until they host Waubonsee Community College on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 5 p.m.

Though Sanderson is relatively indifferent when it comes to playing at home or on the road, Fox was very excited.

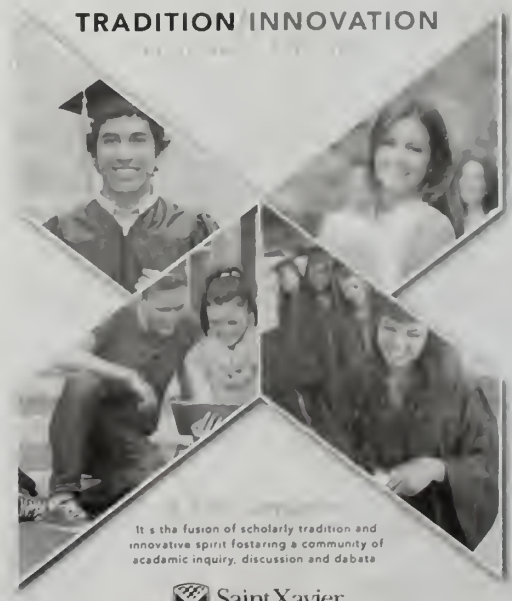
"I'm telling everybody to come to that game," said Fox. "Make sure that you mark it on your calendar."

To Sanderson, the non-conference schedule definitely has its importance, but it is set-up to prepare the team for the conference play, or "the season" as Sanderson called it.

Sanderson always looks for improvement.

His coined term is that "we're only as good as our last game." For the Lady Wolves, they hope to build and improve on their last game.

Freshman guard, Azaraia Marshal, warming up during a recent practice. *Photo by Elias Albert*



Have a Nose for News?

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Mens basketball

Wolves off to promising start

BY JOEL ROZA

Sports editor

It hasn't always been pretty, and it hasn't always been nice, but the JJC men's basketball team has a 2-0 start, and win is a win is a win, isn't it?

"We need to get better in some decision-making and game management but that is what these early season games are for," said head coach Joe Kuhn after their season-opening victory over Olivet-Nazarene University JV on Nov 1

In that game, the Wolves showed what they were capable of when at full focus, extending a 12-point halftime lead to 22 in a matter of five minutes. Forward Darious Randolph found his game after a lackluster first half, guard Larry Moore pushed the tempo to a fever pitch, and the defense turned it up to a level Olivet-Nazarene was simply ill-equipped to handle

The Wolves backed off the throttle after that, but maintained no less than a nine-point lead enroute to a 73-60 triumph.

SHOWING ROAD GRIT

After a 10-day layoff, the Wolves hit the road to battle Prairie State College. The game was slow-moving for the Wolves throughout the first half as they battled inconsistency and rust. "I thought the 10-day layoff hurt us a bit, but we will now get into a regular pattern of games," Kuhn said when asked about the team's play

Despite the slow start, the Wolves once again used a quick second-half spurt to widen the gap with the D causing turnovers and allowing JJC to run up the lead. "Our defense sparked us to a nice stretch early in the second half to open a little breathing room," Kuhn said.

After Prairie State pulled to within five at 38-33, Randolph drilled a three and the Wolves never looked back

The Wolves took the game, 67-49 despite 40.7% shooting from the field (30% first half, 54% second half). Randolph led all scorers with 22 points on 7-15 shooting, also chipping in 9 rebounds.

START INDICATIVE OF RISE

It's been a messy start for the Wolves, but the talent is there in spades. Randolph, after a year away from the game, is still finding his rhythm, yet leads the team in scoring (21.0 ppg) and is second in rebounds (8.0 rpg). His turnover rate leads the team (5.5 per), but there's no reason to sound the alarm after two games.

Freshman forward Matt Hund has been the big 'H' factor for the Wolves, providing timely defense, exciting, momentum-shifting put-back slams, and creating chaos with his ability to space the floor.

With early averages of 11.5 ppg, 8.5 rpg, and 0.5 blocks per contest, it's clear that Hund has become Kuhn's secret weapon.

A 6'7" secret, if there is such a thing.

OFF THE BENCH

Freshman Darius Wells and sophomores Kylee Beheler and Curtis Harrington have become early-season pillars for the team to lean on when a spark is needed.

Beheler was especially tough in the season-opening victory over Olivet-Nazarene, with Beheler providing tough, hard-nosed defense in relief of the struggling Randolph, chipping in 4 points and 10 rebounds, six of which came from on the offensive glass.

While Wells and Harrington have yet to provide measurable offensive stats, their contributions have been felt defensively, providing pick-me-ups when the team is short on stamina.

DUO TO LOOK FOR

Randolph and Hund seem to be the early leaders of this team, and their continued growth and success will be vital to the team's evolution throughout the season.

The team's backcourt of sophomore Larry Moore and freshman Daymeann Stewart have given JJC the backbone they need to allow them team's scorers to work themselves into open spots.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Wolves upcoming schedule through the rest of November features two home games and two road games against non-conference opponents.

-Nov. 15 at Lake Michigan College 3 p.m.
-Nov. 18 Olive-Harvey College 7 p.m. (second-half of men's/women's double-header)
-Nov. 22 McHenry CC 3 p.m.
-Nov. 25 at Kennedy-King College 7 p.m.

Sophomore forward Kylee Beheler rises up for a jumper in a Nov. 12 bout from last year. Beheler had 10 rebounds in the Wolves season opener versus Olivet-Nazarene, six of them on the offensive glass.

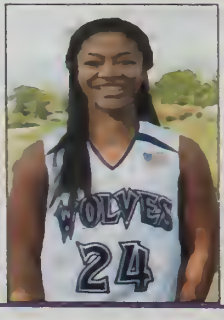
Photo courtesy of JJC.edu

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Darious Randolph

Randolph has helped JJC get off to a strong start, leading the team in points with 17.6 per game and rebounds with 8.6 per game. In the team's Nov. 1 season-opener against Olivet-Nazarene, Randolph led the team with 20 points. On Nov. 11, Randolph poured in 22 in a win over Prairie State College.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE



Naomi Mayes

Mayes has been vital for the Wolves through the season's first four games, leading 2-2 JJC in scoring with 12.5 points per game on a 42.9 shooting percentage. Mayes burst out of the gate in the team's season-opening victory over Governors State with 16 points, getting to the line frequently and sinking of 11-16 free throws.

INSIDE

Carols and Chocolates preview

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WEDNESDAY. DECEMBER 10. 2014 VOLUME 87 ISSUE 10

College hosts annual drag show

Photos by Jami Shaumeker

BY OLIVIA BERGAGNA
Staff writer

Seven drag queens had the chance to strut their stuff to an audience of cheering fans at JJC's sixth annual World AIDS Day Drag Show on Nov. 21 in the Fine Arts Theater.

This charity event helped to raise awareness of the many people in the United States who are HIV positive or are suffering from AIDS. Not only did it raise awareness, but it raised money for organizations such as Regional Care, Will Country Health Department, Agape Missions, and many more to whom JJC donated to in order to help the people who have these diseases. Many of them actually use the money given to buy new HIV testing kits.

During the show, all of these groups were able to speak in from of the group to inform

See Queens page 4

Lyons reconsiders impact of the Beatles

BY RICHARD MASKA
Co-editor

Hot on the heels of the 50th anniversary of the Beatles making their American debut, JJC history professor John Lyons took the opportunity during his Nov. 17 Brown Bag lecture to set the record straight about their impact on music and popular culture.

"I was not slightly impressed with some of the things I heard that were said about the Beatles," said Lyons of the numerous TV programs about the band's state-side arrival.

In his lecture "The Beatles: The Most Overrated Group in History?" Lyons challenged the popular notion of that the Beatles were the most influential and important rock band in history.

"I actually think the (Rolling) Stones were more influential. If you think about most of the bands that came after them, I think they more sounded like the Stones then the Beatles," said Lyons toward the end of his lecture.

The standard narrative attached to the Beatles is that they were trailblazers on the early rock n roll scene, single handedly transformed rock music into a serious art form, causing an ushering in the student protest and feminist movements, while shaping popular culture as we know it.

In lieu of such rhetoric, Lyons wanted to "Rethink about what I thought about the Beatles and what impact they had on the world."

Lyons is an English born professor who has been teaching world history and Western Civilization classes at JJC since 2000. He had previously been employed as a welder before turning his focus to education, and came to the United States to study at university. Lyons completed his doctorate program at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Lyons began his lecture by giving a background on the band, its members, and their rise to stardom.

The band originated in Liverpool, a port city in the northwest of England which during the mid-1960s, was the second most populous port in England next to London."

Because of Liverpool's elements of cross-cultrualization due to their sea trade, the band was chiefly influenced by American music such as Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly and the Crickets, Chuck Berry and Little Richard.

Photo by Richard Maska

In the latest Brown Bag Lecture, Dr. John Lyons argues that the Beatles' influence and impact has been overblown and inflated over the years, making them "the most overrated group in history."

See Beatles on page 3

JJC club gives safe place to question

BY ALEX FORGUE
Co-editor

Many people live day to day accepting their core beliefs without question, but JJC student Nick Giocolo decided to take a different approach to life.

This semester Giocolo founded the Free Thinkers club at the school, a club where people who wish to ask questions and discuss doubts about their religions and personal beliefs can freely express themselves.

Giocolo was not always the questioning individual he is today. Giocolo, who now identifies as an atheist, was once a devoted believer of Christianity.

Until he attended high school, Giocolo attended a private-Lutheran school where he was surrounded by people with the same religious beliefs as him. However, he attended public school when he went to high school and began to meet people with different beliefs; this is where he began to see different perspective on things.

Giocolo's questioning of his religious beliefs did not begin until his senior year where he took a psychology course and the topic of homosexuality came up in class.

From the discussion in class, Giocolo gathered that there was a natural cause of homosexuality and that people didn't choose their sexual orientation; this caused his two core values to clash against each other.

He was always a serious believer in his religion, but was also passionate about science. Giocolo's religious upbringings taught him that people chose their sexual orientation, and those who chose to be homosexual were to

See Thinkers page 4

A fond adieu to editors Maska and Forgue

BY JOEL ROZA
Staff writer

As the Blazer moves forward into the spring semester, it is with heavy hearts that it bids adieu to the two people who kept the Blazer rolling the past three semesters. So before we hang the "Under New Management" sign in the window, let's give one last word to co-editors Richard Maska and Alex Forgue.

Q: How prepared do you think you were to handle the position of "Editor-in-Chief" when you got it?

Richard: *Looking back, I really was not prepared to handle the editor position when I first got it. I had only written for the paper for one semester before becoming editor and had no experience in newspaper formatting. What helped was that I threw myself into the work and dedicated a lot of extra time to it. I also had a lot of help from Bob, Brittney, Alex and Joel, especially during those early days.*

Alex: *I didn't know what to expect when I took the job. I was a staff writer who knew nothing about how the newspaper operated at the time. It was something I was excited about, and I'm glad that Rich was there with me to make sure that everything ran smoothly. Rich and I didn't know each other very well when we first started which made things start off slow, but we got to know each other and got along. Rich has done amazing things for the newspaper, he has put in more work than anyone else*

Q: As non-journalism majors, you both were in a hizarre situation taking over the school's independent newspaper. Did that notion ever get to you or affect you in any way?

R: *I kind of enjoyed that fact, because everyone who knew I was the papers' editor also assumed I was a journalism major. But it really wasn't that big of a deal, we still had a job to do and a criteria to fill regardless of our majors. Additionally, I think working for the paper helped my studies out in relation to my major. Writing history is very similar to journalistic writing.*

A: *I think that it gave us a steep-learning curve when it came to editing things in AP style. But, it also allowed us to bring a new perspective to the paper which I think that the paper needed.*

Q: Alex, you've always been a very outspoken guy. You're an activist, and you love to make your voice heard. Do you feel the Blazer gave you a suitable platform to elevate the discussion on important topics?

A: *I think that it has. I love to give my opinion and educate people on various topics. One thing that Rich and I agreed on was that we wanted to have a paper where staff writers could freely express their opinion regardless of political views. I think creating a paper that allows students to have a voice of their own is something that we accomplished, and I think will be continued in the following years to come.*

Q: Rich, you've spent the last three semesters as the guy running the show. Be it editing, assigning stories, scheduling staff meetings, recruiting new writers and maintaining those on staff. Describe that experience. Has it been rewarding? A burden?

R: *It's been the most rewarding burden I've had to handle. I really enjoyed the responsibility of being the person who is most accountable for the papers' release because I did feel a certain ownership with it. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of working for the paper are all of the relationships that I've built up, whether they are staffers or students and teachers I've covered.*

Q: Moving on now, will either of you pursue a similar job as this one at your next institution, or was this a one-time deal?

A: *I think that I will work for the paper at Northern Illinois University, but I will not be seeking out the editor job. I would much rather be a staff writer and put more focus on my school work and my intended major.*

R: *It's hard to foresee me being offered an editing position at Lewis, but I may become a staff writer there.*

Q: Final question – What are your predictions for where the Blazer will be in five years?

A: *I believe that if the Blazer continues to have staff with the qualities that our staff has had the last few years, the paper will continue to grow and become an important outlet for students to voice their opinion as well as keep up to date with what's happening around campus. The Blazer has changed a lot over the past year thanks to the work and ideas of our staff, and can only get better.*

R: *I think it will get better and better. A bigger and more interactive online presence which may very well replace our print versions. Either way, it will continue to be a vital aspect of student life at JJC and provide great opportunities for the Blazer's staff.*

While editors and staff writers pass through every year, Blazer advisor Bob Marcink is the lone constant. 18 years in, there isn't much he hasn't seen, so his input into Rich and Alex's performance is not one to take lightly.

Q: What was it like working with those two guys for as long as you did?

B: *Rich and Alex are responsible for taking the paper to a place where it really hadn't gone before.*

Although we have had an online version of the paper for a while, it was really just a rehash of the print version. Now we have

See Adieu page 4

Question of the issue
What is the best Christmas gift you have ever given and why?

Cindy Gonzalez:

"I think a tablet for my boyfriend. He really needed one. And I think to me it meant a lot because I actually surprised him. It was something he didn't expect."

Emily Landaiche:

"Before my grandpa passed away, he had dementia and several strokes so he was confused all the time. For some reason, he really liked stuffed animals, and this one particular restaurant. My family got him a stuffed animal from that restaurant; it was a little goat. I know it's just a stuffed animal, but just the way it made him light up, he loved it."

Eva Kalata:

"Maybe it was something I made for my mom or my parents. Like an ornament. They still hang it up every year."

Thomas J.R. Williams:

"That's hard." (Laughs). "I'd have to say a modified picture of my deceased father to my mother. Because the original one she had was really blurry and messed up. It really brought back a lot of heart-warming memories."

BLAZER STAFF

Richard Maska
Co-Editor

Alex Forgue
Co-Editor

Brittney Andersen
Production Manager

Sarah Lake
Advertising Manager

Jami Shawmeker
Photo Editor

Elias Albert
Copy Editor

Joel Roza
Sports Editor

Josh Fowler
Photographer

Staff Writers:
Brandy Andersen, Tim Bunce, Olivia Bergagna, Fassette Anderson, Jordan Baker, Don Belger,

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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Blazer
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431

Phone number:
815-280-2313

Beatles from page 1

But aside from early rock, their music was shaped heavily by country music, girl-bands, Motown and Broadway and other mainstream music.

It their original form, the Beatles began as the John Lennon led group, the Quarrymen, in 1956. Paul McCartney, George Harrison and initially, Pete Best, on drums, would subsequently join the band.

Ringo Starr would replace Best and join the band, then renamed the Beatles in 1962.

Initially, the band's style and apparel was that of traditional rock n rollers: leather jackets with slick backed hair similar to James Dean.

This changed with the hiring of Brian Epstein as manager in 1961, who sought to change the bands look and style in an effort to make them more palatable to a wider audience.

"He basically ordered them to change their appearance and also their stage presence, because before that it was extremely raucous," Lyons said.

The Beatles then donned their famous matching suits, were "ordered to stop swearing on stage," and finished each show with a bow.

By late 1963 the band was a household name in Britain. In cities throughout England, the Beatles found themselves literally chased through the streets by swarms of fans, most of them women and teenage girls.

"They were just a phenomena that we've never seen in England before."

Lyons contends that there were three factors that led to Beatlemania: Firstly the music, "It was exuberant, very joyous. It's a music that's very catchy, everyone could sing along with the chorus."

"Also they had this great knack of knowing their audience. If you listen to all their early songs, the lyrics are very similar but their all directed at a young female audience."

The second key to the Beatles popularity was their look. To our eyes now, their look may appear rather tame: conservative-looking matching suits.

"But if think about their look going back to the early 1960s, their look were very radical," said Lyons.

For instance their hair combed forward in the classic Beatles mop-top, was very different from the popular hairstyles of the day, a more slicked-back look.

"One of the first things people said about the Beatles wasn't about the music, it was their hair," said Lyons of the effect of the Beatles hairstyle.

Additionally, at a time when baggier clothing was the norm, the Beatles wore slim-fitting suits with stylish ties and boots.

The third reason was their media savvy. "If you ever see people like Elvis Presley being interviewed, or most of the stars of the time, they're not that articulate, they're not that interesting, and they don't have a style for giving good interviews."

"But when it comes to the Beatles, it's amazing how confident they are, how intelligent they are, also of course how humorous they are," said Lyons.

The band would give interviews often, not taking things too seriously, "they're very irreverent, which I think fits the time period. Not anti-establishment, but they certainly take pot-shots at the establishment."

Their popularity was so great that by April 1964 the Beatles had the top-five spots on the Billboard top 100, a feat never repeated.

All that said, according to Lyons, the effect the Beatles had on popular music was "A little bit overstated, the idea that the Beatles come around, they have something completely new and then everyone comes along after then and copies the Beatles, that is not true."

Lyons points out that there were literally thousands of bands throughout England playing a similar style to that of the Beatles.

"The sort of music they played was not that original either," Lyons said comparing their style of that to Motown's style.

Additionally, Lyons said the influences of other musicians and bands on the Beatles are often overlooked.

"There's no doubt that Bob Dylan plays a major role in changing their music," particularly in the evolution of their lyrics, Lyons said.

"Let's be honest, 'she loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah' is not the greatest sort of lyrical innovations," Lyons said bluntly about the bands' early lyrical focus.

"After the Beatles meet Dylan for the first time there is an immediate change," said Lyons, "you can see the songs become much more serious, much more personal."

Lyons also challenged the notion that the Beatles transformed rock n roll into a serious art form with the release of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," because as Lyons points out, in the year or so before the album's release, there were already several very influential and innovative albums already out.

These albums, Bob Dylan's "Blonde on Blonde," the Beach Boys' "Pet Sounds," Mothers of Invention's "Freak Out," and the debut album by the Velvet Underground were all released before "Sgt. Peppers," and each contain innovational musical aspects that the Beatles would get more credit for.

The misnomer most attached to the Beatles, according to Lyons, is their perceived influence on ushering in the various cultural and protest movements of the 1960s.

This influence is so inflated that authors have compared their mark on history as comparable to the advent of the Renaissance.

"For most of that have taken Western Civilization or world history classes you know that the Renaissance had world-wide significance," Lyons said. "Did the Beatles really lead to that sort of change in peoples' attitudes in terms of social activism? I think the answer is 'no' there's no evidence for that."

The band is also given ample credit for progressing the women's movement because of their softer more feminine style. But as Lyons points out, none of the leading members of the feminist movement ever mentioned the Beatles as having any influence.

Their impact on student activism is vastly overplayed according to Lyons, who credits Bob Dylan as having far more impact on influencing the student protest movement.

Lyons turned to a John Lennon quote to sum-up the relationship the Beatles had on influencing popular culture.

"Whatever wind was blowing at the time moved the Beatles too. I'm not saying we weren't flags on top of the ship but the whole boat was moving. I don't mean to belittle the Beatles when I say they weren't this they weren't that; I'm just trying not to overblow their importance as separate from society."

The bands effect on fashion has also been overstated said Lyons.

"The standard sort of idea is that the Beatles came around and were the first ones to wear long hair. Every young male saw them and was inspired to have long hair. Again not really that true."

According to Lyons long hair on men was not popular until the 1970s.

Lyons quoted New York writer Nicholas Schaffner to describe the reality of the cultural shift towards men with longer hair.

"Taints of 'sissy,' 'faggot,' or 'miss' were apt to follow longhaired youths down certain streets until the early 70s. At which long hair like everything else was finally co-opted by the American mainstream."

"And it's true if you look at pictures of the 60s and 70s, it's not really the 60s where everyone had long hair, it was the 70s. Everybody had long hair in the 70s," said Lyons.

By the mid-1960s, the Beatles style was already falling behind the times. Still donning matching suits, most other bands at the time were far less homogenous.

For Lyons, the Beatles influence on globalization is the surprising tangible impact the band had on popular culture.

The Beatles toured numerous countries other than the United Kingdom and the United States such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the Philippines.

By contrast, the only other country Elvis toured other than the United States was Canada.

"What made the Beatles unique was that they became a global band," said Lyons, "If you go anywhere in the world and you speak to somebody they usually know the Beatles."

One of the bands' greatest strengths, Lyons argued, was not developing new musical sounds and ideas, rather it is their ability to make them more palatable to a wider audience.

"The thing about the Beatles what they do is gather Avant-garde ideas. Ideas that other people have sort of innovated and then they bring them to the mainstream," said Lyons.

Lyons speculated that much of the mystic surrounding the band is derived from their premature break up in 1970, and that they have escaped much of the criticism now attributed to the Rolling Stones or the Who.

"They're totally associated with the 1960s and that's a decade people fascinated by. Their music changed and young people sort of changed with them," said Lyons.

"I think they were lucky they broke up in 1970. Really lucky."

"We have this image of the Beatles as stuck in the 60s and I think that really helps them."

The band in their quintessential matching suits and mop-top haircuts, from left: John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, and George Harrison. *Original artwork by Brittney Andersen*

Thinkers from page 1

be condemned, but now science was telling him otherwise; this is when he began to doubt the teachings of the church.

LGBTQ rights is one of the main reason why Giocolo no longer aligns himself with his former religion. That revelation in his high school psychology class was only the beginning. Until he was in college, he never knew any people who identified as gay or bisexual, and when he did, he realized that gay and bisexual people were not as evil or as sinful as the church described them as. The way the church treated LGBTQ people bothered Giocolo which really pushed him to abandon his beliefs.

Questioning his beliefs was not easy for Giocolo who began to lose his sense of meaning when he began to lose his faith in his religion. When he first stepped away from his faith, he felt alone and didn't know what to call himself without religion. Not having religion caused him to doubt that there was any meaning to life.

He felt like he had no one to turn to considering that he was only surrounded by religious people. Without religion or any sense of meaning in his life, Giocolo fell into a state of depression for a year and a half while attending his first year at JJC and needed therapy to help him cope.

Eventually Giocolo found people like him on the internet and was able to come to terms with his atheism. For once, Giocolo felt that he was able to redefine himself.

He was able to then tell his close friends who were religious that he was atheist; although they accepted him, they insisted that he was going through a phase and that he would find himself back to Christ. Giocolo, however, wanted them to see that he can have morals and values without a religious background, this is one concept that Giocolo wants people to get out of the club.

After reading books written by people like Richard Dawkins, Giocolo has become more of a humanist, realizing that he has become more open-minded and more accepting of people.

After stepping back from religion, Giocolo became more accepting of LGBTQ people and started to question more of the church's teachings especially how some churches do not treat women equally to men; the misogyny in some of the churches bothered him. But it wasn't only the church that Giocolo began to question, but began to question everything in his life.

"No system should go unquestioned" said Giocolo who wanted to express that it is important to challenge our own beliefs and systems to make sure that what we believe in is correct and that we are able to define ourselves in the best way possible.

Giocolo started the Free Thinkers club when returned this semester to JJC after studying psychology at North Central College. "JJC is a good school, and I wanted to give back." said Giocolo explaining that he wanted to give back by providing a space where people who were questioning their religious beliefs or had alternatives to mainstream ideas to do so safely and freely whether or not they were religious.

More importantly, Giocolo wanted to provided an outlet for those who needed the support that he needed when he first stepped away from religion and felt like he had no one to turn to.

One of the things that Giocolo appreciates most about the club is that the club has members from a diverse background. "We have physics majors, biology majors, psychology majors, and a bunch of other backgrounds in our club.

No one can be an expert in everything, and we are constantly learning from each other and that's what I most like about the club." Giocolo values education and sees himself as a life-time learner and someone who is constantly gathering new information so he can continually redefine himself and his core beliefs.

Giocolo also hopes that the club can go out in the community and provide community service. He hopes that doing so will show people that you don't need a religious background to have morals and values.

Giocolo's political views have changed as well; Giocolo, who once was a conservative, now describes himself as a "moderate liberal", but doesn't like labels or wants to take a political stance, but rather sees the importance of being critical of all political topics and viewpoints.

On the political side, Giocolo does not have a problem with religious people, but only has a problem when they "bring it to the polls." Giocolo has become an activist for those who have had their rights suppressed by religious power.

"When people bring their religious beliefs to the polls, and they attack things like LGBTQ rights, contraception, and the rights of women, that's when I have a problem," Giocolo said.

"I don't want people going to polls and making decisions based on what their church says their belief system is without thinking critically and logically about they're decision and beliefs."

The process of starting the club was not as challenging as Giocolo originally thought. "The JJC community was very supportive. Even the religious groups on campus were accepting of the club which I really admire them for that."

Giocolo was originally worried about backlash because in many other parts of the country where students have tried to start similar clubs, they were met with challenge and backlash.

Giocolo is thankful that the JJC community and Office of Student Activities were accepting and helpful. He feels that it is important that the clubs are supportive of each other on campus, he wants to make sure that the Free Thinkers club is supportive to all the other clubs as well.

Giocolo hopes that the safe space that he created for students will remain after he leaves JJC. "After I'm gone, I would love the club to become a staple to the JJC community promoting secularism, humanism, and critical inquiry. I believe the members we have now are definitely able of taking on the responsibility of moving the club forward and benefiting the college for years to come."

Although his journey of questioning was long and difficult, Giocolo does not regret the experience that he had. "I don't regret it one bit. The person I am today is a much better Nick Giocolo than I was a year ago." He is constantly redefining himself, learning new things, and making himself a better person. Because of his journey, Giocolo knows that "Everything can be questioned."

Queens from page 1

people of who they are and what they do. They even handed out pamphlets, condoms, and red ribbons.

The show was sponsored by the Office of Student Activities but there was much more involved in making the show come to be than just that. Along with volunteers from the OSA, volunteers to help take tickets and even host the event came from GLOW and the Progressive Student Union.

Kendale Brice, a member of the GLOW club, was lucky enough to host the event alongside Amy Sims. His eccentric attitude and creativity helped the event flourish and ensured that everyone had a good time.

Each Queen performed twice on Friday night – once at the beginning of the night, and then a second time after the show's half time performance, which was given by special guest Zander Mander.

They performed songs by popular artists such as Rihanna and Lady Gaga (and even did Lady Gaga's dance to her song "Applause." In heels!).

A former JJC student and student government president Tim Kugleman, has his own company called Dragtastic and helped Amy get all the queens together.

In the end, the show was a great success and raised a large amount of money that will help benefit our community.

Sassy Trade 'freezes' audiance with rendition of "Let it go" by Idina Menzel.

Photo by Jami Shawmeker

Adieu from page 2

an online version that is current, interactive and something to be very proud of.

Alex took the lead on the online version, and he deserves a great deal of credit for getting it up and running.

Rich, on the other hand, took the lead in the print version, serving as the main editor for content and the primary news writer.

He has done a great job. The Blazer has been lucky to have a lot of excellent editors during my years as adviser, but no one has done a better job than Rich. He has made my job easy, and I like that.

Q: Do you feel they've left the Blazer in better shape than they found it?

B: *Rich and Alex will both be missed, but they leave the Blazer in great shape. They should be proud of their legacy as Blazer editors. They are going to do great things at their next stop, and it has been a pleasure for me to work with both of them.*

Maska will transfer to Lewis University next semester in pursuit of a Bachelor's in U.S. history.

Forgue will be attending Northern Illinois University in pursuit of Bachelor's in physics.

MOVING FORWARD

The Blazer will carry on with, yours truly, taking over next semester as editor-in-chief.

Elias Albert will assume the duties of sports editor, Jami Shawmeker will remain as photo editor, and Olivia Bergagna is slated to assume the duties of copy editor.

As of this story, there is a vacancy for next semester for our web admin/social media editor position, and we're always in the hunt for fresh, new writers.

Maska and Forgue leave big shoes to fill, and I don't take that notion lightly.

I learned a lot about speaking my mind, and stepping up in spite of long odds from these two gentlemen. I think I speak for everyone here when I say – good luck to both of you, and thank you.

Job well done.

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Game review

Sleuth through Salem in stealth-styled game

How would you like to solve your own murder? Then check this game out

BY OLIVIA BERGAGNA

Staff writer

Since the beginning of time, everyone has always wondered about the afterlife and what it holds. Do we go to heaven? Hell? Or do we become ghosts?

In *Murdered: Soul Suspect*, players get to experience the ghostly world through the eyes of freshly-deceased detective Ronan O'Connor. From death on, he must figure out who his killer was and what unfinished business he left in his life.

Along with the help of a young medium named Joy, who is able to contact the "other side," they piece together the mystery behind the serial killer and history of the witch trials in Salem, Massachusetts.

Even if investigating your own murder sounds hard, Ronan must also battle demons who are looking to take his soul.

This third-person game was developed by Airtight Games and released this earlier this summer. It is available for Microsoft Windows, Playstation 3 and 4, Xbox 360 and Xbox One.

Ronan himself is the town's audacious detective for Salem Police Department, who would rather do his own thing rather than wait for backup, which is the one thing that ends up getting him killed.

While playing as Ronan, you learn how to possess people, teleport, walk through walls and so much more as you walk through Salem.

Through this game is shorter than most, it quickly develops the story and progresses significantly with every chapter completed. The mystery behind the story leads you in directions you would have never expected and the end will blow your mind.

To help develop the story even further, there are hundreds of collectibles to help further your investigations of the killer, the witch trials, and side cases you can discover.

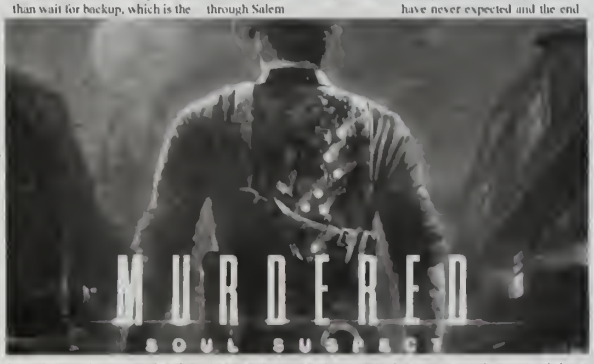
Although the story line was intriguing, there are also many negative aspects that many people did not like.

One review from critic Lucy O'Brien states on IGN that "*Murdered* feel like a pick-a-path game where there's only one path."

For having a mature rating, the game is not very difficult at all. There is some stealth involved, but not much combat.

Arguably, it is a murder mystery, but it seems there is only one way to go the entire game and it is not very interactive.

Over all the story line was great, but many gamers and critics from sites such as IGN, Gamestop, and Metacritic agree that it could have used a lot more attention to detail and been worked on. Entertaining, but not a must-play.



Set in Salem, Mass., "Murdered: Soul Suspect" is a stealth based third-person game where as lead character, Ronan O'Connor, you must solve the crime that matters most: your own murder.

Courtesy of Airtight Games

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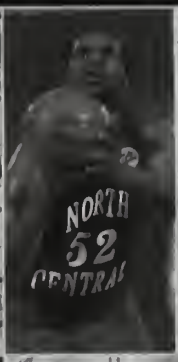

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Ignorance is bliss in GMO debate

BY MOLLY NOVOTNEY

Staff writer

The center image lit up Facebook around election time. This image was used primarily in Oregon, where the GMO labeling initiative Measure 92, a state-wide ballot that would have required companies to label foods containing GMOs, was narrowly voted down.

The image depicts two hands holding what is labeled as "GMO Corn Seeds" and "Normal Corn Seeds." The blue GMO seeds are held in a white-gloved hand. The "normal" seeds sit comfortably in the bare hand. Honestly, I have to give the anti-GMO marketing campaign props.

Because the average person would not know that the seemingly dangerous blue seed had been treated after harvest with a protective seed coat that would increase its chances of germination come time for planting. The average person would not know that GMO corn looks just like the "normal" corn seeds when it is grown. The average person would not know these things, nor would they want to spend some time researching what exactly these things are.

Any person who has no prior knowledge to what GMOs would be able to take one look at this picture, formulate an opinion, and vote without ever having looked a scientific study or taken a basic level biology or agriculture class.

Disclaimer: I am pro-GMO. Why? Because after doing much research, spending four plus years in agriculture, science, and biotechnology classes, and having a firm confidence and connection to those who produce our food, fibers, and fuels, I am confident in the safety and healthfulness of these products.

But hear me out.

The problem I have with images, and more importantly, marketing like this is not at all with the marketing concept, or the concept of transparency in the food marketplace; rather, I'm agitated by the lack of critical thinking skills in today's consumer. The Jimmy Kimmel Live! show proves this unfortunate troth time and time again.

In each instance, Kimmel's crew would ask about "hot buzzwords" in food today: "GMO" and "Gluten" (Links are posted on the website). In both cases, random people on the street were asked they ate food that contained the respective parts, and in each case the people asked fervently denied eating them, saying they were both unhealthy.

However, when asked what exactly these things were, almost every single person that was asked had no idea what they were avoiding, providing hilarity for audience members.

For Agricultural majors, more specifically Ag. education and communications majors like myself, it provided further frustration, but then assurance in job security for years to come, as even in this age of information in which we live, people still have little to no idea as from where their food, fibers, or fuels come.

This does not just occur with anti-GMO people. It happens with those of us who are agriculture majors, who are supposed to be advocates for the agriculture industry.

I witnessed this during my internship with a crop scouting company this summer.

Crop scouting is defined by Wikipedia as "assessing pest pressure (typically insects) and crop performance to evaluate economic risk from pest infestations and disease, as well as to determine the potential effectiveness of pest and disease control interventions."

More accurately, according to a former crop scout, it's long, wet, sweaty, stinky summer days spent wandering through corn and bean fields across northern and central Illinois, looking at thousands of acres of corn and bean plants each week.

Even though she was an animal science major, she still made blatantly incorrect statements about GMOs that she fervently believed to be true. She was pro-GMO, making the situation worse as she misguided others in her pursuit to "ag-vocate."

It comes down to a general lack of critical thinking. Rather, it is us as a society that is to blame for this constant lack of critical thinking skills. As we all have heard time and time again, we have become lazy as a society, and have turned away from researching these things that affect our daily lives.

All the while, almost every person has a small computer in their pocket capable of bringing up millions of sources in the blink of an eye, making researching easier now more than ever before.

At the end of the day, how you choose to spend your money on food is up to you as a consumer. I, nor any other company or campaign, are trying to force you to eat something you don't want to eat.

However, what I am desperately asking you to do is to research. Take the time to research facts from both sides of an issue before formulating an opinion. Ask questions, and then listen to the answers.

As it turns out, you don't need a degree in molecular biology to know what's in your food or a degree in political science to understand politics. You just need to have graduated from kindergarten

Image courtesy of twitter.com/righttoknow.org

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JJC gets into the holiday spirit

Student Government's Christmas tree on display at the Wolves Den Cafeteria.

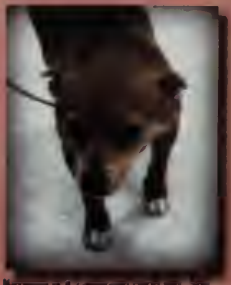
The Veterans' Affairs office gets into the holiday spirit with its Christmas decorations.

Decorations and ornaments adorn the offices of the Science Department.

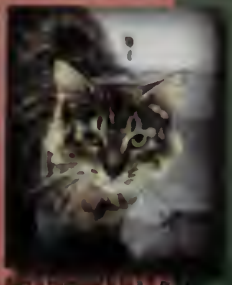
Photos by Jami Shawmeker

Your chance to adopt a pet for Christmas!

All of these wonderful owner-less animals were brought to JJC's Veterinary Program for medical attention and the chance to be adopted. Currently they are residing at Joliet Township Animal Control, but if you are interested in adopting one of these lovely animals, please visit animal control at 2807 McDonough St. or call 8150725 0333 for more information.



Natasha is a 2 year-old corgi mix. She is a sweet little girl. She would do best in an older children's home. She does get along with male dogs also. She is available for adoption and can go home anytime. Her adoption fee is $35 and that includes her spay, microchip, and vaccines.



Abby is estimated to be a 5 or 6 year-old female cat who would be a great addition to any family.

Oreo is estimated to be a 2 or 3 year-old male cat. He is neutered and his front paws are declawed. He would do well as an only cat, but loves to be by people. His adoption fee is $35 and that includes his vaccines, microchip, and both surgeries. He is ready to go home anytime and would make someone very happy!

Charlie is a year and a half old. He can sit, stay and lay down for treats! He loves to play and go for walks. He would do best with older children in the home. His adoption fee is $35 and that includes his vaccines, microchip, heartworm test, and surgery.

Cuisine at local bars hits the mark

BY TIM BUNCE

Staff writer

For those who have ever watched the food network channel, then they may be familiar with food personality Guy Fieri. Fieri's probably most popular show, "Diners, Drive-ins and dives," where Fieri reviews good-eating, low-down holes-in-the-walls. I thought to myself, why not end the semester by reviewing a couple of dives of my own.

The thing about local bars is for the most part they are neighborhood bars, often serve cheap drinks and have a pretty regular clientele.

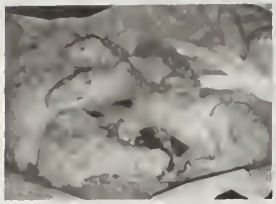
Because they are usually warm and cozy, their food is often made with love. Love and grease. So if you really enjoy your bar food, then these dives are usually the place to go.

As afore mentioned I took my taste buds to a couple of these bars. One place is called Catcher's Tap, while the other is 3rd Base.

The thing with places like these is the menu always has so many appealing options on it.

For example, right as I sat down at Catcher's Tap, the guy next to me had a huge pulled pork sandwich dropped off to him. It took everything I had not to just reach over and take a bite out of it.

However, I was encouraged to try different items on the menu. So I cannot tell you about the pork, but if you're ever there, it looks definitely worth a try.



These champion sized wings were a pleasant surprise at Catcher's Tap. *Photo by Tim Bunce*

What I can tell you, and tell you with conviction, is that bars know poor boy sandwiches.

So I made sure to have a poor boy at each place. At Catcher's Tap, I had the poor boy plain.

A little boring, I know. I really wanted to get a good taste of it though without all the other flavors interrupting the taste of it. I asked for it medium, and they did not disappoint.

It was seasoned excellent and cooked to perfection.

The toasted garlic bread that it comes served on was crisp, but not hard. The butter and garlic blended exceptionally well together making the sandwich as a whole stand out in my book.

The poor boy I had at 3rd Base was a little different. This time it came with provolone cheese, grilled onion and mayo. Again, the poor boy was cooked to perfection.

If I had to be picky, I would say the onions were cut a little thin for my liking.

However, the blend of all the flavors hit the spot nicely. Their garlic bread was a little softer, but I believe that was due to the extra garlicky extra buttery flavor. Regardless of where you go between these two places, the poor boys are most definitely rich in flavor.

As I'm sure you know from previous articles, I do enjoy some wings as well. I was also recommended to try the wings at Catcher's Tap. Wow! They are big! Sauce on them or on the side, however you like it.

Their buffalo sauce is not overly hot, but does have a decent bite to it. I figured in this case, I may as well try some wings at 3rd Base as well.

They do their wings with sauces on the side, but you can get the wings mild or hot.

Catcher's Tap, located at 1723 N Center St., in Crest Hill, and has been owned by Jeff Cox for about two and a half years now. While I could not get a hold of Cox, but the bartender there said the idea came from owning a bar previously.

However, she did not know if he currently owned any others.

Catcher's Tap does offer free Wi-Fi though. I did get the opportunity to talk to a fellow bar patron while I was there to get his take on the joint.

He mentioned that he likes coming there for football games, and that the food is really good.

As far as the atmosphere at Catcher's Tap, there are mostly regulars. Although, the gentelman I spoke with didn't want to me to use his name in the paper, he said, "I'm from Texas. I like to come in here to watch the Texans games, and the bartender automatically turns it on for me when I walk in".

He is pleased with the way they make him feel welcome there. What this place has, that I have not seen before, is pepper jack cheese sticks.

I have seen the mozzarella sticks and the cheddar cubes, but the pepper jack cheese stick is quite interesting.

3rd Base is located at 508 Moen Ave., in Rockdale. Owner, Jimmy Hensley has owned it since 1997. Interestingly enough, Hensley did not buy it for the bar.

In fact there was not even a bar there when he bought it. Hensley bought it for the real estate.

There are apartments upstairs, and there used to be some downstairs as well.

As far as changing the downstairs, "I bought it for the real estate, then gave it a shot," Hensley said. He does not have any other bars, but does have other rental properties.

"I just really want a good neighborhood bar," said Hensley. 3rd Base is also known for their pizzas.

There are a lot of options from toppings to crust, and delivery and dine in options.

I know that restaurants and bars referred to as "local" can conjure up negative connotations, but if you like feeling at home and having good food, then a these local bars are the way to go.

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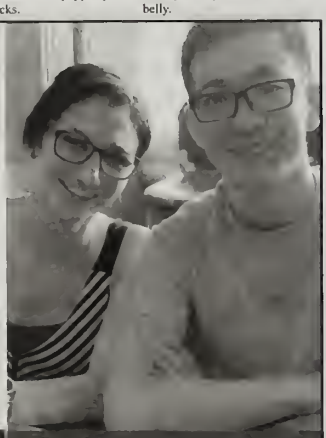

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Commentary

Chorale gives kick-start to Christmas season

BY JAMI SHAWMEKER

Staff writer

The Joliet Junior College Chorale, directed by Phillip Spencer, will be presenting their Thirteenth annual Carols and Chocolate concert on Sunday Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theater.

The Chorale works hard all semester to put together the hour masterpiece they perform.

This main work of the presentation will feature "Magnificat," a new piece composed by Kevin Memly; it was designed to feature a Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Base choir as well as a brass quintet.

There will also be pieces such as "Ave Maria" composed by Franz Biebl, a Hanukah carol; "Dai Diddle Dia," several Christmas carols including "Jazzy Ol' St. Nick," "the Twelve Days" of Christmas, two bell carols, as well as two drum carols because no Christmas performance should be complete without several carols varying in style and genre.

Several songs including "Magnificat," "Ave Maria," "Jazzy Ol' St. Nick," "All Bells in Paradise," and "The Twelve Days of Christmas" will showcase student and several instrumental solos.

The Chorale not only performs several pieces they will also be asking for audience participation as Phillip Spencer orchestrates an audience sing a long from the piano.

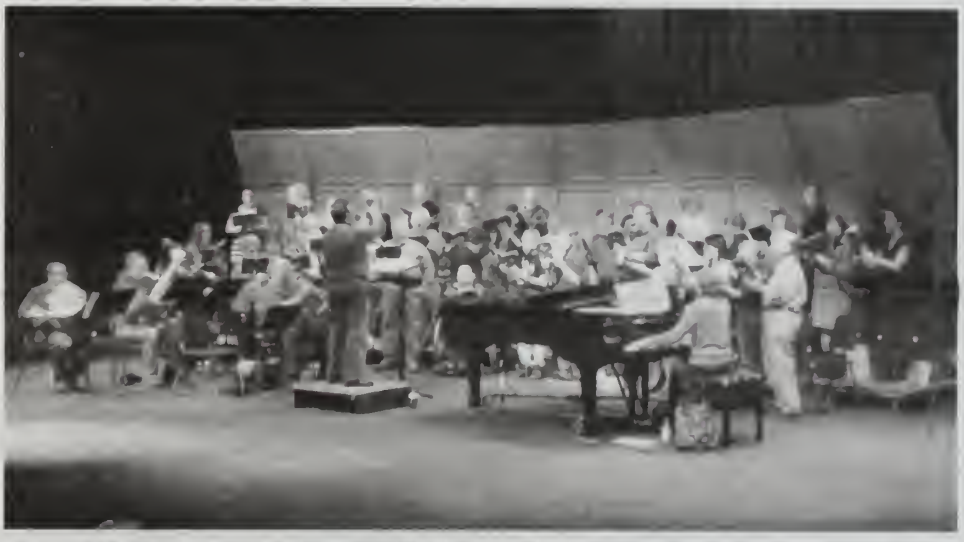
After the concert itself the Chorale has also put together an all chocolate buffet for members and guests alike.

Not only do the Chorale members bake and create their goodies at home they have also gotten several donations from companies such as Fannie May candy.

Nothing screams Christmas spirit more than home baked treats made with love from the heart of every home and donations from companies helping to make this concert a phenomenal success.

There will be something for everyone at this show it encompasses the religious aspect of Christmas all have grown to love, the funny side of Christmas sure to make you chuckle, a seductive yet appropriate approach to a jazzy spin on a Christmas classic, as well as a piece celebrating Hanukah.

If those do not make your eyes twinkle and your dimples merry there is always a chance to star in the show yourself with the audience sing a long sure to include the traditional Christmas songs everyone grew up with.

A Christmas masterpiece followed by a chocolate buffet is the perfect way to end this Chorale's semester of hard work and dedication and a perfect jump start on the Christmas spirit.

The JJC Chorale rehearses for their annual "Carols and Chocolates" Christmas performance on Dec. 14. *Photo by Jami Shawmeker*

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Don't let winter blues get you down

With temperatures turning bitterly cold, most fisherman have reluctantly packed away their gear for the winter and are have already begun dreaming about spring. For others, the cold brings on a new challenge us the "hard water" fishing season begins. Ice fishing can seem like a fruitless endeavor—sitting hopelessly on a bucket in the middle of the lake with a better chance of catching a cold than a fish.

But for those who put the time and work in, the rewards can be great. Take Mike Gorman of Angelo's bait shop for instance. While most fisherman were lamenting last years' record-setting winter, Gorman was busy pulling several monster northern pike from Mazonia.

His secret? Tip-up rigs with large suckerfish for bait, and plenty of patience.

Only a few years ago, me and a few buddies spent the winter fishing the South Wilmington Sportsman's Club, which had stocked their lakes with rainbow trout in the late fall.

Over the course of several trips, we must have pulled over three dozen trout from the lake using an amazingly simple rig: a small metallie jig, sometimes referred to as a "moon jig," tipped with as many wax worms as we could stuff on there.

Though the bait is tiny, it did not stop several class-sized trout over 16 inches from taking it.

Ice fishing also gives anglers some of the best chances to catch monster panfish, which for whatever reason, seem to bite more aggressively than smaller panfish will.

Moreover, the experience of ice-fishing is vastly different, and in many ways, more rewarding than regular fishing. There's a greater sense of accomplishment from pulling a large fish through a small hole in the ice, using the tiniest of gear (that's what she said), than it would be otherwise.

Though the initial investment in gear can be costly, especially for high-end gear such as gas augers or ice shelters, the very basics can be had at reasonable prices. Hand augers can cost as low as $50 dollars, and an ice fishing rod as low as $20.

Hunting

The following seasons are, or will be open for hunting:
Second Muzzleloader Deer Season: Dec. 12-14.
Duck, Coot and Merganser Season: Now until Dec. 16.
Archery Deer Season: Now until Jan. 18, 2015.
First Late-Winter Antlerless Deer Season: Jan. 1-4, 2015.
Fall Turkey Season (Archery): Now until Jan. 18, 2015.
Canada Goose Season: Now until Jan. 15, 2015.

Blazer copy editor, Elias Albert, with a nice crapple caught over the summer in a New Lenox area pond. *Courtesy of Elias Albert*

Mens basketball

Team must sharpen focus to keep wins coming

BY JOEL ROZA
Sports editor

Wolves coach Joe Kuhn has uttered the phrase "it's still early in the season" about three dozen times in about four or five different forms.

It's the typical saying of a team struggling with their identity and, most importantly, with their opponents.

Thing is, the Wolves aren't struggling with either of those. With nine games in the books, the Wolves are 7-2, with a 27-game home winning streak still intact, and a trio of players in forwards Matt Hund and Darious Randolph and guard Daymeann Stewart that have an innate ability to get the home crowd to a fever pitch.

But more than that, the Wolves are a complete team. Jalen Blackmon, Darius Wells, Paris Garrett, Kylee Beheler, Curtis Harrington, and Larry Moore have combined to give the Wolves an energetic, relentless-when-focused group that can stand to beat anyone on any day.

Alex Parks has also played himself into playing time recently, earning the trust of his coaching staff after strong performance against McHenry College in which he netted a career-high 16 points off the bench.

But perhaps the only issue taking root thus far is that word Focus.

BEND DON'T BREAK MENTALITY

The Wolves have carried big leads numerous times this season, most recently in Thursday night's 89-74 win over Morton College. The danger is games like that one, is that the team let two 18 point leads slide into single digits – touching four and five points at different times.

While the team's collective talent has been able to override those mid-game failings, those kinds of lulls won't cut it against N4C opponents like Triton, Harper, and Madison. Respectfully won't cut it against the top-ranked team in the country, Rock Valley. The same Rock Valley that ended JJC's 2013-14 season in the Region IV Championship Game.

RANDOLPH A POLARIZING FIGURE

No man on the court stands out more just for his size and make-up than Darious Randolph, the sophomore standout who came to JJC with the hopes of leading the program over that Rock Valley hump.

Before the season, assistant coach Keith Kinzler stated that Randolph was "pretty much our best player. The guy we'll look to for that go-to basket."

It was hard to see why he wouldn't think that.

Watch Randolph, and you'll see a player who gets off the ground and controls his body in the air like no one else on the court. He's a man out there, for sure.

But after tallying only 13 minutes of game time against Robert Morris University JV, a 92-74 Wolves victory, Kuhn stated that Randolph had been benched for poor shot selection and poor defensive effort.

To steal the coach's phrase, it's early in the season.

Lulls and breakdowns are to be expected in any program, much less a two-year program.

But if the Wolves are going to challenge the likes of Rock Valley for national supremacy, they'll need Randolph to exhibit leadership and laser-focus.

His talent and ability is too superior to be benched.

STEWART A MAJOR SURPRISE

Daymeann Stewart came to JJC unheralded in comparison to signees such as Randolph and Hund. While the team's frontcourt got a much needed size upgrade, Stewart has solidified the backcourt, giving the Wolves a hard-to-beat triple-threat that could spell disaster for the N4C come January.

Through nine games, Stewart is averaging a tick under 17 ppg on 45% shooting. Sterling production from a backcourt used to being led by the quietly-productive Larry Moore.

CONFERENCE PLAY ON THE HORIZON

The Wolves are averaging 75 ppg as a team, while allowing only 56 ppg, pointing to a team that has made the most of playing against unfamiliar and unprepared opposition. The wins have been impressive, and the statement wins that have occurred, have done so with a mighty crash.

This is a very good basketball team, and the home-court advantage will only grow as the wins pile up. As the fall semester wraps up in just under two weeks, the Wolves will transition from non-conference play, to N4C competition.

Teams will have the tape on the Wolves. They'll have scouting reports long enough, and film clear enough to be able to discover weaknesses in JJC's armor. It'll be up to the Wolves to meet those challenges head on.

The next six games will be the last for non-conference play in the 2013-14 season. Home games are in bold.

Dec. 9	at Olivet Nazarene University JV	7 p.m.
Dec. 13	**vs. South Suburban College**	**3 p.m.**
Dec. 17	**vs. Lake Michigan College**	**7 p.m.**
Dec. 20	**vs. Moraine Valley CC**	**3 p.m.**
Jan. 2	at Fox Valley Technical	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 3	at University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley	4:30 p.m.

Mens basketball

Home win streak emblematic of program

BY JOEL ROZA
Sports editor

Remember this date: Dec. 20, 2012.

For those who don't know, that was the last time the Wolves lost a game at home.

On that day, South Suburban College came in and gave them the business, 78-52. Forward Pierre Jolly and guard Ben Daniel led the Wolves with 11 points apiece as the team shot 18-46 (39.1%) from the field.

That was a long time ago.

In fact, it's a stretch of 1,085 days and 28 games. Not one of Wolves coach Joe Kuhn's players from this season, or last season's team, knows what it's like to lose a game at AA "Fizz" Wills Gym.

"It just shows what an advantage (playing in) this gym is," Kuhn said after Thursday's win. "(The team) is talking about it now, so they're really motivated to keep that thing going."

When Kuhn found out that the team's streak winning streak at home against N4C opponents stretched back to the 2011-12 season – a span of over 30 games, all he could offer up was a smile and a "that's pretty damn good."

It is pretty damn good, and it's becoming a widespread phenomenon with each passing victory.

Through statement wins over Olive-Harvey College (Nov. 18) and Morton College (Dec. 4), the Wolves have proven that no amount of adversity will knock their confidence off kilter.

Through double-digit deficits, blown leads and stretches of poor play, the Wolves have manned up when it counted most and gotten the job done each game this season.

CROWD RESPONSE VITAL

Perhaps no outside factor is more intertwined with the team's home success than the fans themselves.

As a two-year junior college, it's not expected for fans to show up en masse to sporting events, or for there to even be many fans. But for the Wolves, the fans show up in droves – the bigger the game, the bigger the audience.

While the crowd was a little sparser than usual for Thursday night's game against Morton, the Lady Wolves – free to depart after their scheduled game vs. Kishwaukee CC was cancelled – spent the entire night at frontcourt, watching their counterparts do battle, screaming for their favorites, and going ballistic with every high-flying slam and defensive effort.

As conference games approach, the crowd will be instrumental as their streak(s) take on bulkier-than-usual tests.

"Our conference is really tough this season," said Kuhn when asked about his confidence in putting the streak up against programs from Triton, Madison, Harper, Col), Wilbur Wright, and of course, Rock Valley, the top-ranked team in the country.

As of now, the streak will have to endure four more non-conference contestants before hitting that first N4C match-up at home against Wilbur Wright College on Jan. 10.

After battling Illinois Valley CC on Saturday, Dec. 6, the Wolves will take on South Suburban College on Dec. 13 – seven days short of exactly two years to the day since they handed the Wolves their last home loss.

STILL HAVE YOUR HEALTH

The Wolves are shockingly healthy nine games into the season, with a rotation that puts them three-deep at point guard, with multiple forwards with size and a nose for the ball. At this rate, it's tough envisioning a home loss anywhere in the near future.

Still, things can happen and while teams threaten the Wolves at every turn, their goal for now is to keep the streak alive.

Sophomore forword Darieus Rendolph rises up for a jumper during the Wolves Nov. 22 win over McHenry County College.

Freshman forward Matt Hund finishes off a wide-open layup.

Second year gaurd Larry Moore battles his way into the lane while swarmed by defenders. *Photos by Jami Shawmeker*

Womens basketball

Wolves producing behind freshman play

BY ELIAS ALBERT

Copy editor

"So far, so good," said head coach Shaun Sanderson when speaking on the team's performance through nine games. "I think we're kind of where we thought we would be," he said.

Where they are is 6-3, with all games being played against non-conference opponents.

This record includes a 2-1 home record and a 4-2 road record, and, at one point, a three-game win streak.

Through just three games at home, Sanderson is particularly impressed with the Lady Wolves' play within their own confines.

"When you're used to shooting on certain rims, like we do in practice," said Sanderson, "there's a comfort level that develops."

"It's also nice and special to play in front of friends and family, it gives you a burst of energy to play in front of a friendly environment," Sanderson said.

"That's why you sometimes do better on your home floor."

The Lady Wolves have recorded 63.3 points per game, which is ranked at 29 in the nation and a 36.8 field goal percentage, which is ranked at 30 in the nation.

The team is equally as impressive on the boards and on defense.

They've held their opponents to 41.1 points per game, which is eleventh in the country and to just a 30.7 field goal percentage, which is ninth in the nation.

On the boards, the team is recording 46.9 rebounds per game, with 16.2 of which coming on the offensive side.

That's good enough to put the Lady Wolves within the top-20 of the nation in total rebounding.

In addition, the Lady Wolves are currently in first-place in the N4C, with conference play still a month away.

The team is also receiving votes in the National Poll and, with another win, may crack the Top ten.

"Their exceeding our expectations," said Sanderson. "We've been in just about every game this season, and we've been able to finish a few times this year."

FRESH IMPACT

Despite being made up of such young talent, the team is developing and having plenty of success.

"This roster has a number of freshmen," said Sanderson, "and they've put together a strong start."

This strong start is very much seen in the effort of freshman guard Naomi Mayes, who has led the team in scoring thus far, with 11.1 points per game.

Mayes has also been efficient with her shooting and scoring, with her 41.2 shooting percentage and a 78.4 free-throw percentage.

Freshman production can also be seen with forward Chavon Banks, center Hillary Dietahn and Coriesha Bailey, who have each recorded 7.2, 6, and 4.8 points per game, respectively.

Adding to her strong work so far, Dietahn has been dominant on the boards with 7.1 rebounds per game, in just over 15 minutes per game.

Sanderson also mentioned freshmen guards Nakisha Williams and Juatece McNear.

"Those are two players who we've been waiting on to show up," said Sanderson.

"Statistically, it may not show up, but the last few games, we've begun to see promising glimpses. If they begin to have an impact, we'll be in great shape."

Along with the praised work for the freshman, there's still plenty of strength associated with the veteran players.

Sophomore guard Le'royia Campbell is, as expected, putting up strong numbers.

Her 9.7 points per game, along with shooting 41 percent shooting, is second best on the team.

Sophomore guard Bernasia Fox also has made her presence known each game, with 7.2 points per game.

There has been plenty to be postitive about with the Lady Wolves so far this season.

However, to Sanderson, there's always room for improvement.

"We need to have consistency," said Sanderson.

"We also want to see their confidence level go up, when things are going well, they're energetic and upbeat."

However Sanderson made sure to add that "We want that when things aren't going well too."

The Lady Wolves will have played on Saturday, Dec 6, at 1 p.m. as they host Illinois Valley Community College by the release of this issue.

If all goes according to plan, the team will have a 7-3 record through the first-third of the season.

Second-year forward Brittany McWaine battles for a rebound during the Wolves 70-56 win over McHenry County College on Nov. 22. *Photo by Jami Shawmeker*

Upcoming schedule with home games in bold:

-Dec. 13 vs. South Suburban College

-Dec. 20 vs. Moraine Valley Community College

-Jan. 7 at Triton College

-Jan. 10 vs. Wilbur Wright College

-Jan. 14 vs. College of Dupage

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Daymeann Stewart

Stewart has been a welcome surprise for the Wolves, averaging 16.1 ppg through the first nine games of the season. On Dec. 2, Stewart led all scorers with 30 points in a win over Robert Morris University JV.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Le'Royia Campbell

Campbell is off to another fast start this season, coming out of the gate as the team's second-leading scorer at 9.7 ppg. In the Lady Wolves' Nov. 25 win over McHenry, Campbell logged 14 points on 5-6 shooting.